

# Jordan Times

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## Iran says Briton gets 'heavy' sentence

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Tuesday that Briton Roger Cooper, held in Tehran since December 1985, had received a "heavy sentence" after confessing to spying for Britain. Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshari was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying the judiciary had completed proceedings against Cooper and a court had passed a "heavy" sentence. But he said the judiciary was still considering a final judgement which it would issue in the future. He did not elaborate. Reyshari said Cooper had confessed to spying and "nothing could halt this case." He said Cooper had worked in key government centres in the ministries of planning and budget, foreign affairs as well as radio and television in Iran since 1958.

## Abdul Meguid briefs Saudi leaders

NICOSIA (R) — Egypt's foreign minister briefed Saudi Arabian officials Tuesday about the planned new economic alliance between Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq. Arab diplomats in Riyadh said. Diplomats said Ezzat Abdul Meguid's talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal focused on the new Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and a joint Arab approach to Middle East peace efforts. "We saw eye to eye on the issues discussed and Saudi-Egyptian ties are very strong," an Egyptian diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh. Abdul Meguid later flew to Dammam to deliver a message from President Hosni Mubarak to King Fahd. Diplomats expect their talks to include the king's efforts to narrow a rift between Egypt and Syria in order to convene an Arab summit.

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## Government leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen finalise framework for alliance

### ACC charter formulated

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, and North Yemen and the first deputy premier of Iraq met here Tuesday to endorse a charter for a new economic group named the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The group of four will be formally declared by the heads of state of the four Arab countries at a mini-summit in Baghdad Thursday.

Jordan's Prime Minister Zaid Rifai opened the meeting with a speech in which he said the establishment of the economic group represented "a strong nucleus and a solid base for cooperation and solidarity among Arab states."

Rifai said the new economic bloc would serve as "a framework for unity that is capable of expanding and growing to include Arab participation, away from any form of polarisation, so as to

achieve the aspirations of our people."

The premier said such a move was necessary at a time when the world "is organising itself in economic blocs and establishing networks of inter-regional cooperation."

Rifai said joint Arab action and cooperation would cultivate the human and material resources of the Arab World and unite forces to overcome divisions and achieve cooperation and integra-

tion. He said the ACC was the result of the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and the leaders of Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, towards establishing "a monument of Arab cooperation between the four states."

The King Tuesday met with the heads of the delegations attending the meeting. He also hosted a luncheon which was attended by Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki, North Yemeni Premier Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Arian, and Rifai.

The four prime ministers were scheduled to hold their second and final meeting later in the evening to approve the final draft of the economic grouping. Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said after the end of the first meeting.

Khasawneh said the four-hour discussions were carried out in a serious and positive atmosphere and that cooperation and full

understanding prevailed. He said that the elements for the success of the project were available, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

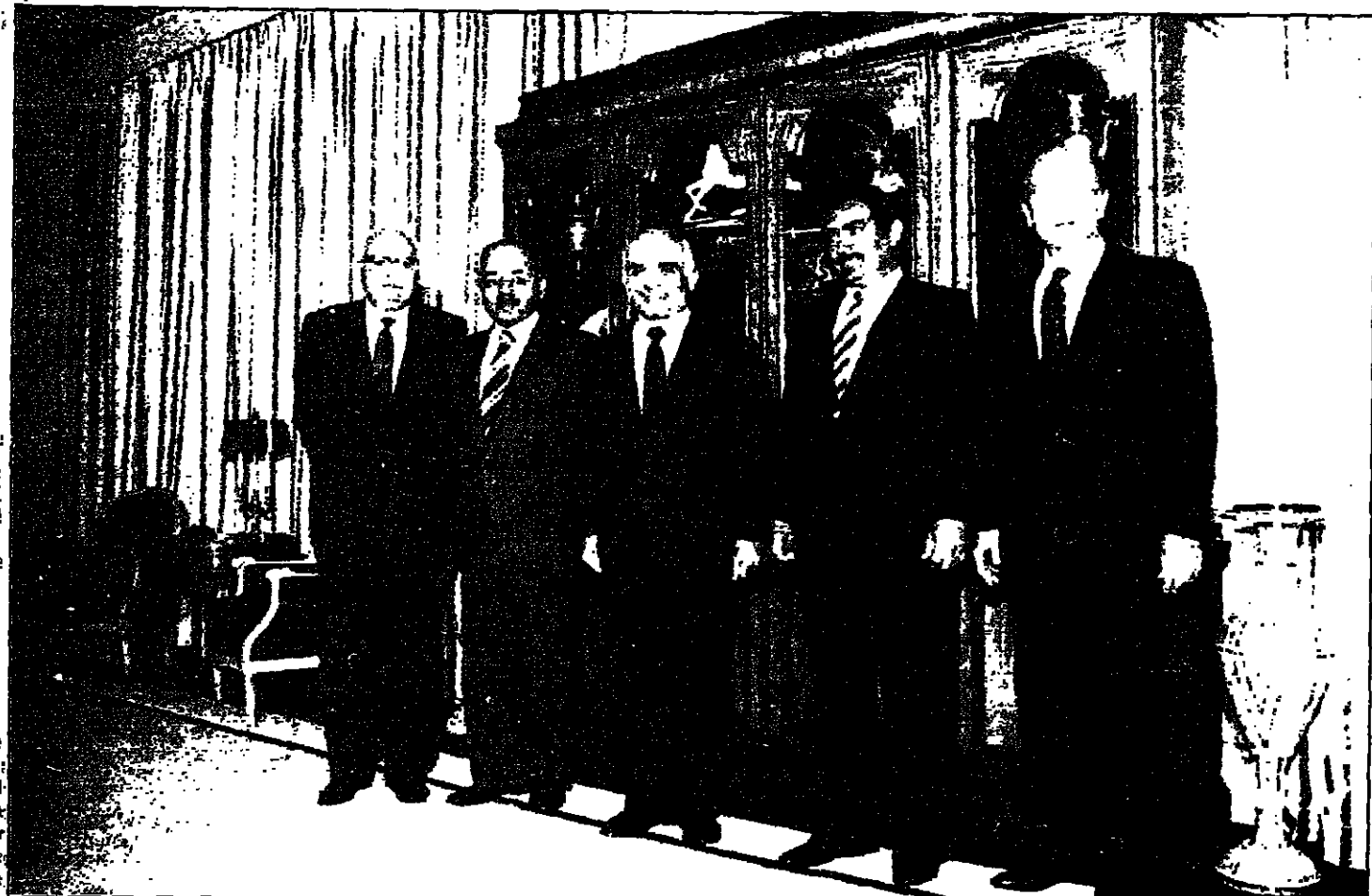
The agency quoted Khasawneh as saying that this Arab grouping comes as an expression of the conviction of the four states that they come from the same nation. He pointed out that the door was left open for the rest of Arab countries to join.

In an earlier statement, Ramadan said the ACC "is the first serious step on the way to successful joint Arab action which has been suffering from inactivity for the past 30 years."

Echoing the stand of the three other members of the group, Ramadan said the step was an Arab gathering and not an axis. "It is open for the rest of Arab states if they are ready and if the conditions are right," Ramadan added.

He pointed out that "we cannot separate between the political and economic dimension of the

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein with (left to right) Prime Minister Atef Sedki of Egypt, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan of Iraq, Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani of North Yemen and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on the eve of Tuesday's meeting in Amman on laying the foundation for the Arab Cooperation Council (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Shevardnadze visit announced; talks to focus on peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive here for a two-day visit to Jordan Feb. 19 for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior government officials, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. A ministry spokesman said the visit "is an embodiment of Soviet-Jordanian ties of friendship and understanding, and reflects the two countries' desire to pursue consultations and coordination of views on issues of common interest."

"The visit demonstrates Moscow's constructive responsibility towards Middle East issues and its determination to exert serious efforts towards settling the problems," the spokesman said.

The King and other senior Jordanian leaders will exchange views with Shevard-

nadze on developments in the Palestinian problem, the positive development in the Palestinian, Arab and international situations and efforts to convene an international peace conference to establish a just and durable peace in the region. The two sides, the spokesman said, will also discuss Jordanian-Soviet relations and means of bolstering cooperation.



Eduard Shevardnadze

## Aziz: Iran not yet ready for peace

By Suhair Obaidat  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Tuesday Iran's intransigence was to blame for the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations after eight years of war and that Tehran was not yet ready for peace in the region.

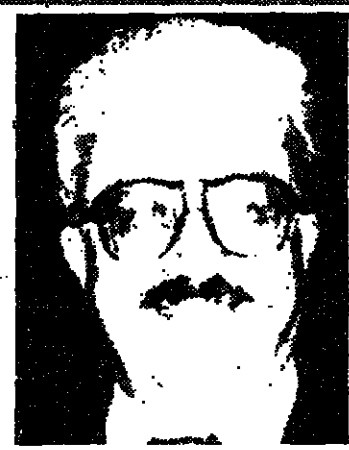
Speaking to reporters upon his arrival here with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan to attend meetings on the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Aziz said Iran was only honouring the ceasefire that took effect Aug. 20 under U.N. auspices and not moving towards any substantial issues to find comprehensive peace. "The mysterious part (of the Iranian stand) is

much more than the obvious," Aziz said.

The foreign minister said Iraq was ready for immediate release of prisoners of war (POWs) taken in the eight-year war provided Iran would reciprocate. "Prisoners should not be used as an element in political negotiations," he said.

Aziz, who met with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati at the U.N. in a meeting attended by the U.N. secretary general earlier this week, said Iran and Iraq would hold another round talks by end of March or early April. The two sides will discuss suggestions expected to be tabled by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Aziz said without elaboration.

The ACC, he said, was the result of 10 years of economic and



Tariq Aziz

commercial cooperation and political coordination among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen — the founder members of the council. "Relations among the four countries have already been founded on solid grounds," he noted, "and that makes our task easier."

## Arafat meets U.S. legislator

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has met with U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens for talks on human rights in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Tuesday.

The congressman's Washington office confirmed the Monday meeting which lasted more than four hours.

Arafat and Owens, a Utah Democrat who is temporary chairman of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, discussed ongoing efforts at peace, ways of establishing a dialogue between all parties and human rights violations in the occupied territories.

Art Kingdom, a spokesman in Owens' office, said the congressman talked to Arafat about the many concerns members of Congress have about the PLO policies and actions. He said Owens sought to make Arafat understand that the quality, duration and extent of relations between the U.S. and the PLO depend on how the concerns are addressed.

Owens plans to make another trip to Tunisia in March and may meet with Arafat again. In its annual report on human rights practices around the world issued last week, the U.S. State Department said Israel's response to the Palestinian uprising "led to a substantial increase in human rights violations," in the occupied territories last year.

Arafat flew into Dakar Tuesday on a two-day working visit to Senegal, a close ally of the Arabs in sub-Saharan Africa.

## LAST-MINUTE NEWS

### Israel stops radio jamming

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has stopped jamming broadcasts of a Palestinian radio station it once accused of inciting protests in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arabs and an Israeli radio monitor said Tuesday. Palestinians said Israel may have stopped the jamming because it hoped the broadcasts by a Syrian-based rebel faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would sow division among the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Radio Al Fatah, run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has condemned the PLO for recognising Israel and accused it of defeatist policies.

### U.S. envoy to S. Arabia resigns

RIYADH (AP) — The American ambassador to Riyadh, Walter L. Miller, has sent his resignation to Washington and will leave his post at the end of March, well-informed sources said Tuesday. Miller, 57, arrived in August for his second posting in the kingdom, replacing ambassador Hume Horan who had been recalled for "consultations."

### Lebanese stage anti-Hizbollah protest

BEIRUT (R) — Thousands of Lebanese staged a protest rally Tuesday in the South Lebanon town of Tyre to protest the return of a pro-Iranian group to the area. Witnesses said. They said they saw, banks, and schools closed as the crowd, estimated at about 600, chanted slogans condemning the return of Hizbollah to the area. Tuesday's march was the first sign that once peace reached between Hizbollah and its rival Amal militia in maelstrom last month might be in trouble.

### U.S. delays MX decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House will not meet a deadline set by Congress for deciding whether to continue building MX missiles or switch to a smaller, single-warhead missile dubbed the Midgetman, it announced Tuesday. "We are reviewing the entire strategic posture of the country and it is logical and necessary that we postpone a major decision until the review is complete," said White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater. A bill approved last year stipulated \$350 million earmarked for the MX programme could not be used until the new administration informed Congress of its long-term intentions. It set a deadline of Wednesday for the decision.

### Iran seeking freedom for Egyptian POWs

NICOSIA (R) — Oman is trying to help free several thousand prisoners held in Iran after being captured fighting for Iraq in the war, an Egyptian diplomat said Tuesday. Yousef Ibo Alawi, a minister of state for foreign affairs, flew to Egypt Tuesday after talks in Moscow with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Egyptian officials expect him to have some word on the fate of the prisoners. "We do not know exactly how many they are... we are waiting for good news on the issue from Iran before we have not seen anything yet," the diplomat told Reuters by telephone.

### Leader of Peruvian miners killed

LIMA (R) — The leader of Peru's powerful miners union was shot to death and a senior union official Tuesday accused a right-wing death squad of his murder. The bullet-riddled body of Saul Cantoral, 43, was found near Lima shortly before midnight Monday, according to a union spokesman. Cantoral led the 60,000-strong Peruvian Miners Federation, a powerful union that has been waging a bitter struggle against the government and union owners since one 55-day stoppage cost \$497 million in production losses in copper, zinc and silver mines.

## Khartoum plans fresh bid to end civil war

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government, under pressure at home and abroad to end the civil war in the south, is planning a new peace initiative, Foreign Minister Hassan Al Tourabi said Tuesday.

He said the plan would urge an immediate ceasefire to be followed by a peace conference with an open agenda.

"All issues of substance can be taken up in the conference and we have no conditions as to the venue, time or observers," Tourabi, leader of the militant National Islamic Front (NIF) party, told Reuters in an interview.

Tourabi, whose party is the second largest coalition partner after Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party, played a key role in the rejection last December of a tentative peace pact between the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in November. The DUP, Sudan's second largest party, quit the government in protest, allowing NIF to strengthen its position within Mahdi's coalition.

A French-educated former law lecturer, Tourabi said a national committee, comprising people from all political currents, would be formed to make contacts with the SPLA and other parties to the conflict.

The government set no preconditions for a peace conference and would accept none from the SPLA, he said. "With the ceasefire, we'd also propose a relief programme. We need immediate relief because more people are dying of hunger than from the actual war," said Tourabi.

Tourabi advocates the strict implementation of Sharia laws in Sudan. This is strongly rejected as divisive by the SPLA and leftist parties. Arab and Western diplomats in Khartoum say Tourabi's NIF also advocates an all-out offensive against the SPLA with massive Arab support to force the rebels to negotiate peace without preconditions.

Tourabi said Sudan would not end its state of emergency until the fighting had stopped and would not sever cooperation with other Arab states, but rather planned to increase general coordination with such neighbours as Libya, Chad, Egypt and Ethiopia. It accuses the latter of supporting the rebels.

On the controversial issue of Sharia, Tourabi said it should be a subject for debate in a peace conference.

## Golan Arabs stage protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arab residents in the occupied Golan Heights staged a protest strike and stayed home from work Tuesday to mark the seventh anniversary of the Israeli "annexation" of the territory, Israeli radio said.

Hundreds of extra policemen and border patrol troops were sent to the Golan Heights as reinforcements Monday to keep the order and prevent an outburst of violence, the radio said. But it added there were no major outbreaks of trouble.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, meanwhile, troops shot and wounded a 14-year-old boy in the head at the Shati refugee camp, but hospital officials said he was not in serious condition.

The army clamped a curfew on Gaza's Rafah refugee camp following demonstrations Monday night, an Arab reporter said.

In nearby Khan Yunis, an Israeli labour department office was destroyed Monday night by a blaze apparently started by Palestinians, the reporter said.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, merchants closed their stores to protest raids by Israeli tax authorities, an Arab reporter said. Tax boycotts have been a regular feature of the anti-Israeli Palestinian uprising.

Dozens of Bethlehem merchants, as well as physicians who said their offices were raided by tax agents Monday, staged a sit-in protest in the town's International Red Cross building Tuesday. The Red Cross building is one of the few places they are able to stage a protest without being dispersed by the army.

One protester said: "The Israelis can tell themselves we are Israelis but they can't stop us from being Syrians in our hearts."

"The demonstration is on this day to mark the annexation but of course it is also a protest against occupation," he said.

In Majdal Shams, in the Golan Heights, residents held a march through the town. "Golan is Syrian and Palestine is Arab," the demonstrators shouted. "Syria stands together with the Palestinians."

The mostly Druze villagers protest each Feb. 14 against the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights in December 1981. The day of the demonstration recalls Israel's arrest in February 1982 of four local leaders.

Their faces masked by scarves, the protesters said this year they were also marching in solidarity with the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Rebels close in on Kabul as Soviets meet deadline

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union said Tuesday that about 30,000 rebels were massed around Kabul, amid reports that some Afghan army units were deserting positions handed over to them by the withdrawing Soviet army.

"There are around 15,000 rebels around (the eastern city of) Jalalabad and double that around Kabul," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilov told a news conference, without giving further details.

However, Perfilov said the situation within Kabul was calm and stressed that the last Soviet troops would leave the country on schedule Wednesday.

"From Feb. 15 there will not be any longer a single Soviet soldier in Afghanistan," Perfilov said. The Soviet trade union news-

paper Trud earlier quoted soldiers returning home as saying that Afghan army units were fleeing in the face of threats from the rebels, leaving outposts and fortified positions.

Long queues for bread and petrol persisted in Kabul and United Nations aid workers in the city distributed food to 400 poor families. The same number of families received U.N. packages of rations Monday.

Afghan government troops stationed on the Salang Highway, the vital artery linking Kabul to the southern Soviet border, said a big supply convoy had reached the capital Monday and another was expected Tuesday.

Rebels fired two rockets at Kabul airport Tuesday.

A small group of Soviet soldiers waited eagerly at Kabul airport for the order to board planes home before Wednesday's deadline for the final pullout, more than nine years after Moscow sent in its forces in December 1979.

Several residents of Kabul said letters purporting to come from rebel commanders had been delivered secretly to people's houses, warning them to close their shops, stay indoors or leave homes close to the airport Wednesday.

Afghan soldiers guarding Kabul airport said two rockets had landed near the runway without causing harm. Some outgoing artillery fire was also heard but a Reuters reporter in Kabul said the capital was generally quiet.

### No Shura progress

Rival Afghan guerrilla factions in Pakistan made little progress on forming an interim non-communist government in their homeland, and a leading moderate party said it would boycott the talks until a row with fundamentalists was resolved.

Delegates to the council, or Shura, aimed at approving an interim government for Afghanistan following the departure of Soviet forces, met Tuesday morning without the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF).

"We will boycott the Shura until our Afghan brothers in Iran are invited," an ANLF spokesman told Reuters.

There was no immediate support from two other moderate rebel Mujahadeen groups based

in Pakistan for the walk-out by ANLF leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi.

Their officials had said earlier they would back a boycott if the ANLF walked out over a row on how many Shura seats should be given to eight Mujahadeen groups based in Tehran.

"Whether we join the boycott will depend on the proceedings and what kind of decisions are taken," said a spokesman for one of the other moderate groups.

He said the Tuesday morning Shura session discussed only the ANLF boycott and what to do about it. No decisions were taken, the spokesman added.

"But, obviously, without the ANLF and the Tehran-based groups, the validity (of the Shura) is totally gone," he said.

The Kabul government said

meanwhile that it was holding peace talks with some rebel Mujahadeen commanders.

The official Bakhtar news agency, quoting a government statement, said the talks had started in the past few days but did not identify any of the commanders.

Most of the major guerrilla leaders are in Pakistan. "In the past several days a number of commanders of armed opposition groups started talks with representatives of the authorities," Bakhtar said in a dispatch received in Islamabad.

"They said the absence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan made it possible for them to take part in the process of a peaceful settlement and the termination of fratricide as soon as possible," it quoted the statement as saying.



# EC to try to persuade U.S. to back peace conference on Mideast

MADRID (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers agreed Tuesday to press the new U.S. administration to back an international peace conference on the Middle East, diplomats said.

"The United States holds the key. The United States is still formulating its policy. The community must try to influence that policy," one diplomat said, summing up the ministers' discussion.

Spain's Francisco Fernandez Ordonez urged caution in the early days of the Bush administration in a report on his visit last weekend to Jordan, Egypt and Syria. He was accompanied by Roland Dumas of France and Karolos Papoulias of Greece.

Diplomats said a major preoccupation was that the community should put its views forcefully to the Bush administration before Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir travels to Washington next month.

President George Bush has yet to nominate someone for the top State Department post on the Middle East or lay down a clear policy. Until now, Washington has not backed a U.N.-sponsored peace conference because Israel has refused to accept it.

Fernandez Ordonez, the current president of the EC Council of Ministers, is due to see U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Madrid Wednesday.

Diplomats said he would stress the importance of the 12 EC governments attaching to an international peace conference and Washington's crucial role in convincing Israel — which depends on U.S. aid — that it was the only way forward.

They said Fernandez Ordonez would also propose a meeting between Baker and the Spanish-French-Greek tripartite spearheading community efforts, perhaps at the opening of East-West arms talks in Vienna next month.

The latest EC efforts in the Middle East followed the decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in November to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist. That also persuaded the United States to resume high-level contacts with the PLO.

But diplomats said what had originally been billed as a major EC initiative was now being described as a fact-finding visit that had been welcomed by all parties. "They have been trying very hard to lower expectations," said a non-EC diplomat.

Tuesday's discussion was comparatively brief and yielded no plans for fresh contacts in the region following the "troika" talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid last month and with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Syria this month.

Fernandez Ordonez and Dumas also have paid separate visits to Israel in recent weeks and Shamir is expected to visit Madrid on his way back from Washington next month.

But Israel has criticised EC and U.S. contacts with the PLO.

## Arens in London

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived in London Tuesday for talks with British leaders who he said could play an important role in the Middle East peace process.

Arens will discuss the current situation in the occupied territories, battered by the 14-month Palestinian revolt, and current peace moves with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign

Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe.

He will also meet opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock during his three-day visit. Arens said before leaving Israel that he had no plans to present a promised Israeli peace initiative in Britain.

Shamir has spent the last two months working on new interim proposals based on Israel's 1978 Camp David accord with Egypt. Arens said these would be discussed in Washington.

The proposals provide for elections for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and peace talks under superpower auspices. Israel says it will withdraw troops from populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip once Palestinian "autonomy" is established.

The U.S.-educated hardliner said Thatcher was a "national hero in Israel" and a long-standing friend who could help advance the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"It depends what role Britain wants to play," he told the Times newspaper in an interview. "Perhaps Britain can put forward ideas acceptable to all sides."

Arens' trip comes at a delicate time in Anglo-Israeli relations. Britain has upgraded contacts with the PLO and Israeli leaders have bristled at British condemnation of their handling of the Palestinian uprising.

They were angered by remarks by Junior Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave during talks with Arafat last month in Tunis.

Waldegrave urged Israel to recall the terrorist past of some of its leaders — including Shamir — under the British mandate and accept that Palestinians could also abandon violence for peaceful politics.

Howe last week urged Israel to start "facing the facts" and meet the Palestinians half-way.

# Sudan rebels besiege town

KHARTOUM (R) — Some 150,000 hungry people are isolated in a town last supplied with food one year ago by barge convoy and now cut off by Sudanese rebels from an emergency airlift, relief officials said Tuesday.

The officials accused the rebels of breaking a commitment to allow emergency flights to Malakal, one of several southern towns included in an accord reached with rebels and the government by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The situation there must be extremely bad... how many are dying is difficult to say," said one relief official, who declined to be identified. The airlift there was to begin Jan. 6, the officials said.

Malakal, located on the White Nile, is also a strategic government garrison about 200 kilometres from Nasir, a town that fell to the rebels in January.

According to the ICRC agreement negotiated over 10 months last year, relief supplies were to be allowed safe passage to three government-held towns and three held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The relief operation got underway in December. But when the time came to fly food to Malakal, the SPLA refused security clearance to the ICRC.

A government barge convoy left two weeks ago for Malakal but stopped about 50 kilometres short of the town, relief officials said.

Rebels have attacked relief barges to towns in the past and after the fall of Nasir there was speculation the guerrillas might be in a position to hit the convoy.

United Nations and some government organisations do not want to make official contact with the SPLA and go to the south at their own risk. But independent organisations have taken to both sides.

The ICRC is running one flight a day to Wau, a town where many starved last year, and plans to start two daily flights this week.

The organisation is distributing to about 20,000 displaced people there a monthly ration of 12 kilograms of cereal, 2½ kilograms of beans and two litres of edible oil.

At Awel, where people also starved last year, the ICRC has registered the 5,000 most needy and is still counting. About 500 malnourished children are being cared for in a feeding centre there, a Khartoum-based relief official said.

A UNICEF official said that two weeks ago in the refugee site of Abyei to the north, 100 people were arriving from the countryside daily in hopes of finding food and security.

# Morocco-Polisario talks postponed

PARIS (R) — Morocco has indefinitely postponed a meeting between King Hassan and Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for an independent Western Sahara, a Polisario spokesman said.

Baba Sayed said Monday the meeting had been scheduled for Marrakesh this week. It would have been the second direct contact between the two sides in 13 years of conflict.

Sayed the Polisario's representative in France, said the postponement had dashed the front's hopes of gaining observer status at the Maghreb summit starting in Marrakesh Wednesday.

The Polisario Front held unprecedented talks with King Hassan in January, marking a breakthrough in relations with Morocco.

Polisario has in the past refused to hold a referendum as long as Moroccan soldiers and nationals inside Western Sahara outnumber the indigenous people.

Sayed said the postponement would also have a negative effect on the three-day Maghreb summit, where Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya were due to debate the formation of a North African alliance.

Attempts to set up a Maghreb alliance have in the past been thwarted by differences between Morocco and Algeria, which supported the Polisario Front against the Moroccan army.

However, relations between Morocco and Algeria have improved and diplomatic relations were restored last May.

# Message of love touches even Lebanese

BEIRUT (R) — Tinsel hearts decorated Beirut Streets on the eve of Valentine's Day, showing the Lebanese can still call each other darling after 13 years of war.

"This is an occasion that does not distinguish between the Lebanese," said Aida Kronfol, owner of a chocolate store in west Beirut.

"It's a day of love for everyone. I wish it were an official holiday so that everybody would celebrate it."

For some, commercial concerns outweighed romance. "We are doing more business than in the Christmas season," said Walid Maalouf, who owns a

gift shop near the American University of Beirut (AUB) in the western sector of the divided city.

His store, busy with shoppers, offered a variety of gifts for Valentine's Day, including cards, heart-shaped balloons, toy animals with warm messages and night shirts decorated with hearts.

Maalouf said his customers, mainly well-to-do Beirutis and students, were enthusiastic about the celebration, a Western tradition which has grown increasingly popular in Lebanon despite the war.

Restaurants and night clubs offering candle-lit St. Valentine's Day dinners and shows were fully booked days before the celebra-

tion Tuesday night. Magazines and newspapers were packed with suggestions for gifts for loved ones, while radios and television stations advertised especially romantic programmes for Tuesday night.

Many Lebanese Christians and Muslims, who separately celebrate 13 religious holidays each year, said they were united in marking the day of love which brightens their war-blighted lives.

"This occasion brings a twinge of joy to us. Real happiness was lost to the war. We are trying to revive it by celebrating occasions like this," said Tounif, owner of a clothes shop in west Beirut.

# Alliance framework formulated

Continued from page 1

grouping. "This is the first time we focus on the economic aspect as a broad basis for unity. This will also reflect the political side, noting the level of political coordination and consultation among the four states over the past ten years has been exemplary."

In another arrival statement, Sedki said the aim of the grouping was the establishment of a "united Arab market following the example of the European Community."

He said that any Arab grouping was bound to contain a strength for the Arab position and a movement towards a historic unity of the Arab people. He added that "an economic unit will inevitably have an impact on politics."

The Egyptian premier said the ACC would establish an executive council to be headed by the four prime ministers and it would meet every six months. The four heads of state would meet once a year, Sedki said, adding that Egypt suggested that the council's permanent secretariat would be based in Amman.

Jordanian officials said the aim of the council was to establish economic unity between its members as an important preparatory step towards an eventual political union.

Officials quoted in the local press said Monday the ACC's draft charter stipulated that the four countries would strive to achieve economic integration.

They said that priority in trade exchange would be given to the products of member states and that each country would minimise

inter-state competition.

The council would also establish a central importation committee with the aim of getting lower prices for imports.

Petra said the council would work towards strengthening economic ties between the four, boost trade and tourism, promote freer movement of goods and labour, set up joint ventures and increase exports and investments.

The Jordanian officials said the council intends to gradually lower customs and tariff walls and reduce bureaucratic procedures. They would also gradually impose customs fees on imported goods from outside the council.

The officials said the ACC plans to develop transport cooperation to facilitate trade exchange. The council plans to establish a maritime line linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean from the Alexandria port in Egypt to North Yemen, passing through the port of Aden in the Red Sea. They will also merge the four national airlines, according to the sources, which requested anonymity.

They said there was a plan to set up a regional fund, similar to the European Fund for Regional Development, with the purpose of balancing the distribution of money from rich areas to poor areas in member states.

The council also intends to draw up strategies for dealing with other regional and international economic groups, particularly the European Community.

Officials said North Yemen had already suggested a project for the electrification of its rural areas, to be carried out with Jordanian, Egyptian and Iraqi

expertise and technical assistance.

The meeting of the four prime ministers Tuesday was attended by high-level officials from the four countries including on the Jordanian side Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem, Transport and Communication Minister Khaled Haj Hassan, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Planning Minister Kamal Jazouiri, Transport and Communications Minister Suleiman Mutwalli, Military Production Minister Jamal Al Sayed, Information Minister Sawwat Al Sharif, Industry Minister Mohammad Abdul Wahab, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yusef Mustafa, International Cooperation Minister Maurice Makramallah, First Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs Osama Al Baz and Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers Ahmad Radwan.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Aziz, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'doun Hamadi, Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Zubaidi, Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh, and other officials.

The Yemeni side was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayyari and other Foreign Ministry officials.

# Majority of Americans favour U.S.-PLO dialogue

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Three nationwide opinion polls taken in January indicate that a majority of the American people favours the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but widely disbelieve the PLO has abandoned terrorism.

The three surveys were the Jan. 4-12 Media General-Associated Press poll, the Jan. 9-10 Time-Yankelovich poll and the Jan. 12-15 CBS-New York Times poll.

Time-Yankelovich found a 70-16 per cent majority of the American public favoured the "U.S. decision to talk with the PLO... about issues affecting Israel and the Palestinians." CBS-New York Times found a 64-23 per cent majority favoured the "meetings" and the Media General-Associated Press poll reported 67 per cent of respondents approved of the United States "holding talks" with the PLO.

The CBS-NYT data shows further that U.S. contact with the PLO is favoured by a majority in every population group. Most supportive were college graduates, adults 18-29 years old and westerners — 75 per cent to 20 per cent. The groups with the smallest supportive majorities were grade-school educated, adults 65 and older and southerners — 55 per cent to 25 per cent.

The Media General-AP poll showed much the same: while 67 per cent overall approved of U.S.-PLO talks, that number swelled to 79 per cent of college-educated respondents. And, going a step further, the AP poll found that six in ten of the most educated group, those who had done postgraduate study, said Israel should allow the creation of a Palestinian state on land it occupies in exchange for recognition from the PLO.

However, PLO leader Yasser Arafat's statement renouncing terrorism, which fulfilled U.S. conditions for the start of the dialogue, has not altered the negative image of the PLO held by most Americans, according to the findings from the Time-Yankelovich poll, which showed a 61-16 per cent major-

ity still views the PLO as a "terrorist organisation" — similar to the results obtained in a comparable survey a year ago. Moreover, a 70-11 per cent majority believes Arafat "is someone who cannot be trusted." The Media General-AP survey showed just six per cent of those questioned said they believed the PLO's recent renunciation of terrorism, and 74 per cent said they thought the group only made that claim for political gain.

The January polls reinforce findings before the U.S.-PLO talks began that the public is pessimistic about the chances of reaching an Israeli-Palestinian accord during the next four years.

A mid-November Harris poll had asked respondents about the likelihood of certain events and agreements taking place "during George Bush's term in office." Asked whether "Israel and the Arabs" would reach an accord on the Palestinian issue during this period, 58 per cent said it was "unlikely" compared to 30 per cent who thought it "likely."

"By way of contrast, the optimism expressed about most of the other possible occurrences on Harris' list was considerably higher. Pessimism about an early Israeli-Palestinian accord stems largely from the beliefs, shown by the latest polls to be widespread, that:

— both sides are not yet willing to compromise sufficiently and

— the PLO is not yet a trustworthy negotiating partner.

According to the CBS poll, the American public sees both the PLO and Israel as currently unwilling to make "real concessions" for the sake of peace: 56 per cent view the PLO as intransigent; almost as many (52 per cent) view Israel as intransigent.

The Time poll showed that a 78-11 per cent majority believe peace in the Middle East is "not possible" without "discussions between Israel and the PLO." This accords with findings from previous polls that found most Americans view the PLO as an important actor in the Middle East peace process

and favour "talks" with the PLO, presumably as a way to moderate its policies and move it toward negotiations.

Resolving the Palestinian issue is viewed as a long-term process, requiring continuing — but not urgent — attention. A Roper poll in late September presented respondents with a list of "problems facing the nation today" and asked how much effort the government should give to each. A "major effort" by the government "to help negotiate a peace settlement between Israel and all the Arab nations" was favoured by 27 per cent (46 per cent said "some effort" and 19 per cent said "no particular effort now"). This was the smallest percentage favouring a "major effort" for any of its 19 domestic and foreign policy issues on Roper's list.

Two other recent polls show similar low priority status: whether the question refers to conflict between Israel and its "Arab neighbours" (presumably including the Palestinians) or between Israel and "Arab nations."

# Mysterious prelude to Maghreb summit

RABAT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was escorted across North Africa Tuesday by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in a mysterious prelude to a five-state summit on Maghreb union.

The official Algerian APS news agency reported that both men left Tunis, where they arrived unexpectedly Monday evening, on their way to Bousfer near the west Algerian town of Oran after talks with Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali.

All three were due to join leaders of Morocco and Mauritania at a Maghreb summit in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh Wednesday to discuss a union along the lines of the European Community.

Benjedid flew unexpectedly to Libya Monday morning and then brought Qadhafi with him to Tunis, apparently so the Tunisian president could help him sort a last-minute hitch to the summit.

The three men consulted into the early hours of Tuesday, but no details of the talks emerged. The Algerian news agency said talks were widened to include

senior ministers before Ibn Ali and his top aides bade a temporary farewell to Benjedid, and Qadhafi at Tunis's Carthage airport.

Official sources have not explained the pre-summit comings and goings, which have given rise to speculation that the Libyan leader might be reluctant to go to Morocco.

The summit is due to examine a draft treaty uniting Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania in an Arab Maghreb union. Qadhafi last week suggested Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan should also join.

Mystery deepened with Qadhafi's and Benjedid's unexplained stopover in the tiny town of Bousfer near the Moroccan border.

Ibn Ali had said he would arrive in Marrakesh Tuesday afternoon. Benjedid and Qadhafi were expected to arrive together.

Qadhafi's relations with summit host King Hassan have been uneasy since the Moroccan monarch met Shimon Peres, then Israeli prime minister, in Morocco in July 1986.

# Iran executes 70 drug smugglers in one day

TEHRAN (AP) — Seventy drug smugglers, including three women, were hanged in Tehran and 25 other Iranian cities Tuesday, the largest number of traffickers executed in a single day amid a ferocious anti-narcotics crackdown.

The 67 men were hanged in public at dawn in a blinding snowstorm. The women were executed inside Iranian prisons, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Seven of the men were hanged in Tehran's Shusha and Korasan squares at dawn in what was intended to be a public spectacle to underline the government's determination to eliminate drug smuggling and abuse, which officials have acknowledged has become a major problem.

But few people turned out to witness the executions because of the snowstorm that had played havoc with communications in the city.

It paralysed traffic as snow plows cleared the main avenues after more than three inches (7.5 centimetres) of snow fell during the night.

All flights from Tehran's

Mehrabad Airport were cancelled and hundreds of people were stranded in the terminal.

The men's bodies were cut down from the makeshift gallows after a short time, instead of being left hanging for a day as has been the case with earlier executions.

Nearly 200 men and women, identified by the official media as convicted drug smugglers, have been executed since early January.

Fifty-six were executed in one day Jan. 16, a few days before a new law mandating the death penalty for possession of even small amounts of narcotics came into force.

An anti-narcotics task force made up of Revolutionary Guards and the Revolutionary Committees, or Komitahs, who have largely taken over law enforcement, have rounded up more than 2,000 people in recent weeks.

Scores of heavily armed smugglers have been killed in fierce gun battles with security forces in the eastern provinces bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, the main smuggling routes, the official media has reported.

# DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Korant
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:15	Programme on plants
17:35	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:15	Arabic series
19:00	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Wrestling
22:30	Varities programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme (cont.)
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Champs Elysees
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Don't wait up
21:10	Phonograms
22:00	News in English
22:30	Desperado
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57	Fajr
07:15	(Sunrise) Duha
11:50	Dhuhr

CHURCHES	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625341.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Gradual increase in temperature is expected and clouds appear in different altitudes. Winds will be light westerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds	

Al Sharaa pharmacy .....	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafeh Anallah .....	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy .....	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department .....	661111
Civil Defence Immediate .....	630341
Rescue .....	199
Civil Defence Emergency .....	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade .....	6229093
Blood Bank .....	771221
Highway Police .....	84302
Traffic Police .....	6569091
Public Security Department .....	656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints .....	605800
Price Complaints .....	661176
Water and Sewerage .....	897467
Complaints .....	787111
Amman Municipality .....	787111
Telephone Information .....	12
(directory assistance) .....	17
Overseas Calls .....	623101
Central Amman Telephone .....	661101
Repairs .....	773111
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....	774111
Jordan Television .....	(—)
Radio Jordan .....	(—)

Water Authority .....	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority .....	815611
Electric Power .....	636381
Company .....	08-53200
RJ Flight Information .....	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport .....	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Musannab Medical Centre .....	81813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn .....	642816
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn .....	624142
Jabal Amman Maternity .....	642362
Malhas, J. Amman .....	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani .....	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital .....	669131
Queen Alia Hospital .....	843045
University Hospital .....	6672279
Al-Musannab Hospital .....	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali .....	666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....	6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....	7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf .....	7751126
Amry, Malha .....	8016115
Queen Alia Hospital .....	6022450
Amal Hospital .....	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital .....	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital .....	(09)986732
RRID:	
Princess Basma Hospital .....	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital .....	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital .....	(02)247100

AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital .....	(03)314111
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple .....	300 / 450
Banana .....	300 / 3





## Landmark in Arab history

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday receives Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan (above left), Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki (above right) and North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani (right) in Amman. The three prime ministers arrived in Jordan to lay the foundation of the Arab Cooperation Council which will join the four countries into a sub-regional economic alliance (Petra photos)



## Committee seeks to boost role of private sector to stimulate exports

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee set up to activate the role of the private sector in stimulating national exports concluded a series of meetings in Amman Tuesday by recommending the creation of a national data bank to be linked to international data banks, to acquire essential information for promoting national export operations.

Committee Chairman Mohammad Asfour said that the committee urged the concerned authorities to set up a national corporation to guarantee and encourage exports and to encourage banks to provide financing for exporters and to facilitate transport services.

The committee also called on the government to provide partial exemptions from duty and other taxes for export operations to boost exports, according to Asfour, who is also president of

the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

The committee encouraged the government to promote the role of chambers of commerce and industry at local, regional and international fairs, and to take part in seminars and conferences, Asfour said.

The committee also urged the private sector to conduct surveys and collect information on national products to enhance the export process, Asfour added.

According to Asfour the committee called on concerned authorities to stimulate agricultural exports by reducing transport tariffs, provide technical information that assist food processing industries, reduce production cost, train teaching personnel in grading and packaging crops and introduce standard specifications for containers used for packing vegetables and fruit.

The committee has called on the government to offer tax incentives to producers, merchants, transporters and others involved in the export operations, and to remove obstacles that impede production and export operations which require introducing facilities in storage and shipment operations and launching an information campaign to highlight national products in foreign markets.

The committee comprises representatives of the Ministries of Industry and Trade and Planning as well as the Central Bank of Jordan and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

## Workshop on combatting diarrheal dehydration ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day workshop on the role of communications in enhancing and promoting Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) to combat diarrheal dehydration was concluded Tuesday at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional office here. Taking part in the meetings were communication and programme officers from 15 offices in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

Figuring high in the discussions were national and regional experiences.

New strategies were adopted for accelerating the ORT at the regional and national levels, to reduce the Infant Mortality (IMR) and morbidity rates, thus contributing to the realisation of the resolution adopted by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, during their meetings in Amman last April, to cut the infant mortality rate by 1990 to at least half of what it was in 1980.

## Exhibition of maps opens at University of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of maps, "entitled the Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East," was opened Tuesday at the University of Jordan's library.

The exhibition, which consists of 35 maps, was sponsored by the university's Geography Department in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Amman.

The maps depict geographic, historic, geological, archaeological, and economic features of Jordan prepared by a group of Middle East specialists.

Also on display is a collection of maps prepared by the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) displaying aerial photographs of Amman shot between 1918 and 1981 depicting the development of the capital over the years.

The RJGC maps also depict touristic, archaeological and geological areas in the Kingdom,

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree has been issued, endorsing the amendment to the National Medical Institutions, whereby the board of directors have been dissolved and replaced by a board of trustees headed by the prime minister Zaid Rifai. (Petra)

**ART EXHIBITION:** Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday inaugurated a plastic art exhibition, held at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The 2-week exhibition includes 38 plates and 30 artistic works for 24 plastic artists, depicting the various aspects of social life in Jordan. (Petra)

**TAFIEH GOVERNOR WARNS CITIZENS:** Tafieh Governor Aref Irshaid Tuesday called on citizens living near the streams and valleys in the southern and eastern parts of Tafieh to keep their distance from such place and called for the evacuation of people living in tents near these sites, in view of the rising levels of water, due to the melting of the snow. (Petra)

**BALQA HEALTH PROJECTS:** Balqa Health Department carried out health projects in the various parts of the governorate at a total cost of JD 1,345,000 in 1988. (Petra)

**BAZAAR IN MAFRAQ:** Mafraq Governor Fayez Abbadi Tuesday opened a week-long bazaar at Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Mafraq. On display at the bazaar are handicrafts, ceramics, dresses and needleworks. (Petra)

**DAJANI RETURNS FROM ABU DHABI:** Secretary General of the Federation of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Burhan Dajani Tuesday returned home from Abu Dhabi where he took part in the federation's general assembly meetings and the 4th session of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Chamber of Trade and Industry. (Petra)

**MADABA AGRICULTURE:** Al Mushaqqar agricultural research centre in Madaba district has embarked on tours of farmlands in the district where technical teams provide local farmers with information on promoting the production of wheat and legumes. The centre urged all farmers to keep in touch with the teams if they require assistance. (Petra)

**ART EXHIBITION AT YARMOUK:** An art exhibition by students from the University of Jordan was opened at Yarmouk University Tuesday. A total of 80 paintings were on display depicting Jordanian environment and national heritage. (Petra)

## 12 killed, 633 injured in December road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 12 persons died and 633 others were injured in 1,331 road accidents that occurred in Jordan in December 1988, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) statistical bulletin issued Tuesday.

The bulletin indicated that the number of accidents went down by 77 compared to the number released in November 1988.

The capital witnessed the lion's

share of these accidents, accounting for 701 in all. There were 133 accidents in Zarqa, 76 in Balqa, 184 in Irbid, 31 in Karak, 23 in Ma'an, 57 in Aqaba, 83 in Badia, 19 in Mafraq, 11 in Tafieh and 13 in Madaba regions, the bulletin said.

Of the total number of accidents, 830 involved vehicles knocking down pedestrians, the bulletin reported.

## Work on infrastructure underway at Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Work on the infrastructure at the Al Hassan Industrial City (HIC) in the north of the country is underway and plans are being contemplated for establishing industrial cities in other parts of the country, according to Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Director General Fayez Suheimat.

He said that the HIC is being set up on 427 dunums of land provided with all essential services, but the door will not be open for investors until April.

Suheimat said that the HIC can accommodate 80 small industrial businesses unlike that of the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) which has 150 industrial concerns.

The northern industrial city, which was named after His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier this month, is located near the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). According to Suheimat the Ministries of Transport and Telecommunications, Labour and Education, the Civil Defence Department, the Public Security Department, the

Royal Scientific Society, Jordanian banks and insurance companies, opened offices in the SIC to facilitate work for the investors and save time and effort.

Earlier this month the Social Security Corporation (SSC) opened an office at the SIC and the Customs Department has decided to follow suit and offer integrated services to the various industries, Suheimat noted.

Suheimat said that the JIEC, which was established in 1980, strives to promote industry in the Kingdom and is hoping to achieve that goal through the industrial cities where the largest possible groups of industrial businesses can operate.

According to Suheimat the SIC, set up on 2.5 million square metres at the cost of JD 73 million, now has food processing industries such as canning of vegetables, fruit and juice, confectioneries, biscuits etc., and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries such as veterinary drugs, and medicine.

The engineering industries include those for the manufacture of gas stoves, radiators, refrigerators, shoes, solar heaters, electric appliances, plastic pipes etc... The chemical industries include paints, pesticides, insulating materials, detergents, scents, cosmetics, soap, ready to wear clothing, carpets, doors, printing materials, and other products.

Suheimat in a statement on Feb. 5 said that all premises at the SIC have been occupied but there was an opportunity for industrial investors at the HIC and the other industrial cities which would be opened in other parts of the Kingdom. Suheimat expected JIEC to open the new industrial cities at Salt, Karak and Tafieh.

## Red Crescent Society seminar discusses Geneva Conventions

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Geneva Conventions and its protocols as well as the international humanitarian law were the main topics under discussion at a three-day symposium which ended in Amman Monday evening.

The participants discussed the rights of civilians in occupied

regions, evacuation plans, the rights of prisoners of war, torture of detainees, as well as a review of the creation and development of the Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Specialists and lawyers from the University of Jordan and the

Red Cross delivered lectures at the symposium focusing attention on the International Humanitarian Law.

The symposium, which was organised by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), was addressed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who urged major powers to commit themselves to the implementation of international agreements and protocols in all areas of tension and conflict.

Prince Hassan advocated an international code of conduct to which all nations should be committed in times of war and peace.

The participants reviewed the Geneva Conventions of 1949, issues related to civilian population protection during military occupation and other related topics.

## Jordan to attend Arab League financial talks

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in an Arab League Council meeting to discuss financial and administrative matters at the league headquarters in Tunis.

The meetings, which will last 10 days, will address the question of Arab states that had so far failed to pay up their dues to the Arab

League headquarters budget and the construction of new league premises in Tunis.

Also on the agenda is the question of a pan-Arab transport strategy. Jordan's representative at the meeting is Ahmad Mubaidin from the Jordanian embassy in Tunis.



Lucette and Jean Claude Gerard

## French piano duo to perform in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A famous French piano duo will perform to Jordanian classical music lovers in a concert to be held Thursday in Amman under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad.

The concert has been organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre in

Amman.

The Duo Gerard, the famous French husband-and-wife team will perform at the Hotel Philadelphia International Thursday Feb. 16, 1989, and the proceeds will benefit the conservatory's scholarship fund, according to the organisers.

The duo, consisting of Lucette and Jean Claude Gerard, will arrive in Jordan from Syria to present works by Debussy, Fauré, Chabrier, and Ravel.

It has been customary for the

conservatory to cooperate with other cultural centres in organising concerts, lectures and workshops with a view to promoting music in Jordan.

Earlier in February it presented the famous American Sun Rhythm Section, originators of Rock a Billy music in the 1950s, through two concerts in Amman and in Irbid.

Before their performance in Amman, the Duo Gerard will give a concert at Yarmouk University on Feb. 15.



## Consortium Classicum in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Amman will present "Consortium Classicum" in a concert featuring works by Haydn, Weber, Hummel and Mozart on Saturday Feb. 18, 1989. The concert to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre will be under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An exhibition of lithographies by French artist Jean-Paul Chambras at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Mu'ta University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Town Squares of Europe" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Warm Colours in the Jordanian Environment" by students from the University of Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan — 12:00 noon.

### FILM

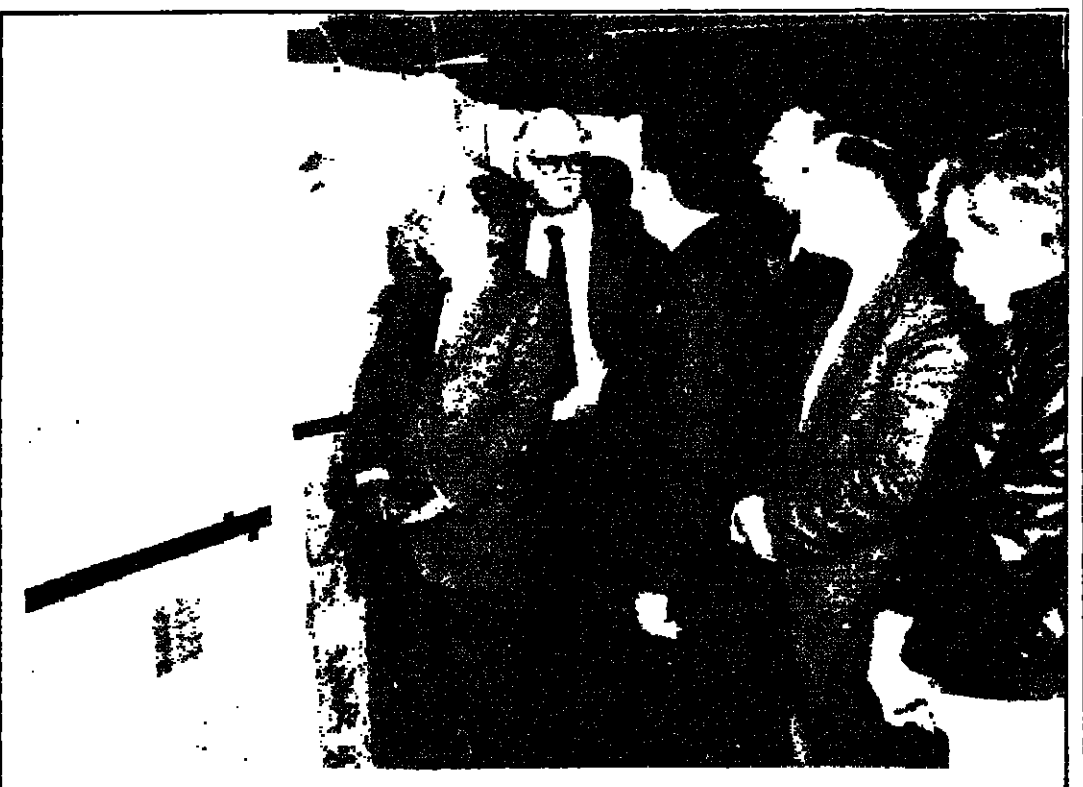
- ★ A Belgian film entitled "Benvenuta" which is shown as part of the European Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by the renowned Lebanese artist Paul Guiragoussian entitled "40 Years of Experience in Art" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Cultural Centre, Shmeisani — 6:00 p.m.

### BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar which includes dresses, flower-arrangements, ceramics and other handicrafts by students at the Princess Basma Community Centre, Mafraq.



University of Jordan Acting President Mahmoud Al Samra Tuesday opens an exhibition of maps. Also

present is the West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels

as well as maps that give details about lines of communication in the country. Some satellite photographs of Jordan are also

on display.

The exhibition, which was opened by Acting President Mahmoud Al Samra will last for

seven days. West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels was among the guests at the opening ceremony.

Under the Patronage of  
H.E. Dr. Naser Al-Deen Al-Assad  
The National Music Conservatory /  
Noor Al Hussein Foundation  
and  
The French Cultural Centre

present  
Duo Gerard  
in a  
Four-hand Piano Concert  
works by  
Debussy, Fauré, Chabrier,  
and Ravel

Thursday,  
February 16, 1989  
8:00 p.m.  
Philadelphia International  
Hotel (formerly: Holiday Inn)  
Tickets at 3 JD's are available at:  
Philadelphia International Hotel  
The French Cultural Centre  
The National Music Conservatory



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردن كيمون يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:  
RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:  
DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:  
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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## Giant step towards Arab unity

THE ARAB World takes another landmark stride Thursday with the proclamation of the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. The event assumes additional significance in light of the overwhelmingly economic nature of the sub-regional alliance devoted to tying up loose ends and fitting in the right places in the right places in terms of resources and needs of the four member states. While it would be naive to expect a made-to-order economic alliance to be in place overnight after the proclamation of the ACC, there is no room for doubt that the grouping would go a long way in advancing and strengthening the concept of pan-Arab economic unity — a much-cherished but elusive dream, which, as and when realised, could do away with a major part of the Arab Nation's dependence on foreign sources and alleviate the political ramifications of such dependence.

It is not an easy task that lies ahead of the ACC, particularly when seen in light of the diverse nature of the economies of the four founder members of the alliance. Meshing together the economic systems in place is indeed a heavy responsibility and an unenviable task of the ACC leaders; at the same time, the groundwork has already been done through the years of performance of joint higher committees among the four. Quite simply, it is no longer the jigsaw puzzle that some seek to portray, since each member is aware of what it can offer others and what the others can provide in return. That indeed is the best starting point. Teething problems will be there but that should not be any discouraging factor, nor should they be a cause for ridicule.

The sincere and dedicated effort that His Majesty King Hussein and other leaders of the alliance undertook to explain to the rest of the world that the council is not aimed at any other party and that it has no political goals appear to have been well received in Arab circles. The alliance has left its door open to admit non-members of the Gulf Cooperation Council or the planned Arab Maghreb Union. Hopefully, once the air is totally clear and the dust settles down, they will opt to join in. If anything, the scenario adds to the responsibility and should strengthen the determination of the alliance to prove itself a success to the rest of the Arab World and the international community.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The meeting in Amman of the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen is the theme of editorials in the Al Ra'i and Al Dastour dailies Tuesday.

For its part, Al Ra'i daily said the four prime ministers will spend two days discussing the formation of the alliance before its official proclamation in Baghdad by their heads of state. The new economic group will no doubt serve as a very constructive contribution to building a strong Arab economic entity, and one that will have its effects and influence on world affairs. The alliance will be open to countries wishing to join in the efforts for strengthening the national economy and will serve as an example and a model for close cooperation among states existing next to one another and harbouring great hopes for the future, through close cooperation, the paper noted. In our present age, the paper added, economic alliances are required so that common challenges can be met and progress can be achieved faster. The paper said that the meeting in Amman is of paramount importance, not for the four countries only, but rather for all the Arab states.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Tuesday on a visit to the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the first since taking office three years ago. Mahmoud Rissawi says that the Soviet official is coming here against a background of peace initiatives to settle the Middle East conflict and as the European Community nations are showing increasing interest in finding a solution to the Palestine problem. Apart from discussing the Middle East issue, the Soviet official is bound to tackle other matters like the situation in Lebanon, the Gulf situation, Syrian-Palestinian differences and Syrian-Iraqi relations because these are also of concern to Moscow which strives to see the Arabs united in their action with which they can attain a lasting and honourable settlement, the writer points out. Therefore, the writer adds, the Soviet foreign minister is expected to exert efforts towards solving side issues to put an end to inter-Arab differences, thus paving the way for an all out effort to deal with the central and more important issue.

Al Dastour welcomed the prime ministers of the three countries meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in Amman Tuesday to discuss the tripartite economic alliance. It said that the alliance should be considered as a fruit of Jordanian diplomacy led by His Majesty King Hussein and supported by the leaders of the four countries. There is no doubt that the alliance would be a good contribution towards an all out Arab unity in the future and will pave the way for more fruitful cooperation among Arab states in economic fields, the paper noted. The paper said that such alliance could never have been achieved had there not been complete harmony among the heads of state of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen; and there is no doubt that such harmony would be deepened when close cooperation has begun and more economic progress has been achieved for the benefit of their peoples.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Amman is opening its arms for the Arabs and hosting a meeting that would pave the way for a new phase of cooperation leading to unity. The Arab Cooperation Council, which the four ministers will fuse in their meetings here, constitutes a wide and concrete step towards bringing more progress and prosperity through sharing of expertise and through interaction in economic fields, the paper noted. It said that the emergence of the economic alliance reflects political maturity in the Arab World and responsibility towards serving the higher national interest.

## U.S. policy vs. Mideast missiles

At the recent Paris conference, the United States argued, some believe ineffectually, against the spread of chemical weapons in the Middle East while doing little to curtail Israel's nuclear arsenal. Now the energies of the Bush administration are likely to be concentrated on what America perceives as the growing 'missile race' in the Middle East.

By Naseem Abdallah

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States faces a frustrating diplomatic spring under its new administration as it mounts a campaign for limiting what it sees as a ballistic missiles race in the Middle East.

U.S. defence officials believe that the "War of the Cities" between Iran and Iraq, in which the destructive power of the long-range missiles was proven with the loss of thousands of civilian lives, has been at least partly responsible for the addition of ballistic missiles to the inventories of all major countries in the Middle East.

In addition to Iran and Iraq, and Israel's widely reported nuclear and conventional capability, a congressional report recently named Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Libya as the countries already known to have stockpiles of ballistic missiles of different ranges and sizes.

Arab diplomatic sources in Washington argue that the Arab countries' acquisition of ballistic missiles is directly related to the sense of insecurity created by Israel's nuclear capability. This argument figured prominently at the Paris conference, where western concerns over chemical warfare proliferation were noted for the absence of any reference to

Israel's nuclear capability.

"So long as Israel's nuclear capability remains outside international control or monitoring the argument for maintaining a conventional deterrent force in the Arab World will remain a strong one," said one diplomat. "It is not that the Arab countries are particularly awash with petrodollars or that they can go on spending on military stockpiles. It's a matter of sheer necessity."

U.S. diplomatic initiatives on the ballistic missiles issue so far have skirted what Arab diplomats see as the "linkage" between the various levels of military buildup in the Middle East. "It is quite ludicrous to separate the issues, chemical and nuclear proliferation and the matter of ballistic missiles," said one analyst. "To my mind they are interdependent; one problem cannot be addressed without attention to the others."

Although Israel has had a long-standing programme to develop long-range missiles, it is the Egyptian programme in recent years that has awakened U.S. officials to the need for diplomatic action. Before President George Bush took over in January, U.S. officials were hinting at inviting both Egypt and Israel to talks on the missile issue.

Initially, the Bush administration wants to engage the Middle East governments into a framework of cooperation that will involve commitment by each of the countries to provide notice of test launchings. Although innocuous at face value, U.S. officials hope that such an arrangement will enable the administration to monitor and assess the potential of each of the missile-owning countries.

The test monitoring arrangements then could be upgraded into a more comprehensive for-

mat covering limitation and control of production and deployment.

U.S. government sources said the missile issue now was of high-level concern in the Bush administration, because of fears that the ballistic missiles already in Middle Eastern stockpiles could be used to carry chemical or nuclear warheads. However there are deep differences between the Pentagon and the State Department over how to translate that concern into policy — or how to limit proliferation.

The hardliners, who oppose any proliferation outside the western camp, as well as supporters of Israel, who have advocated a ban on any Arab state possessing ballistic missiles, have had to contend with the pragmatists who feel that the United States must seek the confidence of the regional governments rather than risking confrontation, particularly

since most of the countries involved are its allies.

Pentagon experts have cited arguments for seeking Arab pledges against "first use" and on the size and nature (nuclear, chemical, conventional, etc.) of the payload. What few of the administration experts have failed to acknowledge is that military deployment in the Middle East is the direct outcome of the Arab states' threat perception via a vis Israel's nuclear capability.

Many of the administration's respected — and hence influential — experts still seem to believe that the issues of Israel's nuclear power, chemical weapons and missiles production have to be treated separately. It is because of this prevailing narrow-focus view that analysts feel there cannot be a breakthrough on missiles without movement on the wider issue of Palestine. — Academic File.

## NATO partners acquiesce in Bonn's missile problems

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

LONDON — With their mild reaction to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's statement that no NATO decision is needed this year to modernise nuclear weapons, the United States and Britain have accepted that Bonn's political problems come first.

Washington and London, the most hard-line members of the 16-nation Western alliance, had for some time been pushing the West Germans to agree in 1989 to a programme to upgrade short-range missiles and other nuclear systems.

Bonn, faced with widespread public opposition to the plan, had been dragging its feet.

Finally Kohl, in an interview with the British newspaper Financial Times published on Friday, said there was no need to commit NATO to an update of its 88 Lance missile launchers until 1991 or 1992.

Initial U.S. and British comments were surprisingly sympathetic to the dilemma of the West German leader, who has tried to show Atlantic solidarity while at the same time taking account of the strong anti-nuclear feeling at home.

A European-based U.S. official said Washington wanted a "positive signal" from Bonn on the Lance, but said: "It doesn't have to be a decision (on modernisation) taken in 1989. We recognise that the Germans aren't going to do that."

A British official also said London did not want to make life difficult for Bonn, and added: "I

don't think the Americans are in the business of trying to twist the arms of the Germans at the moment. They realise there are domestic concerns there."

NATO launched its modernisation plan in 1983, foreseeing a reduction in the total number of nuclear warheads — missiles, bombs and artillery shells — but improvement of remaining stocks. Since then it has cut warheads by 35 per cent — mainly obsolete shells — to a figure of 4,600.

The question of replacing the ageing Lance, NATO's only tactical missile with a range of 110 kilometres, has become more acute since the 1987 U.S.-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty abolishing medium-range missiles.

The U.S. Defence Department is examining several candidates for the new missile, of which the favourite is a nuclear version of the army tactical missile system, which is being developed as a conventional weapon for the U.S. army.

But in order to go on funding development, the U.S. Congress wants assurances from the rest of NATO that they support the modernisation programme.

The problem for frontline West Germany is that in any East-West conflict short-range missiles and shells would be likely to explode on its or on East German territory. Bonn politicians have coined the saying: "The shorter the range, the deadlier the Germans."

Over the past year, a compromise had appeared to be emerging in West Germany that

it would approve the missile modernisation programme in return for a sharp cut in NATO's nuclear artillery shells.

But for Kohl, faced with continuing setbacks in local elections, no time has seemed like a good time to announce such a decision.

To add to the problem, a stream of disarmament offers and unilateral cutbacks from the Soviet Union has intensified the feeling among West Germans that no modernisation is needed.

In December, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced he was withdrawing 50,000 men and 5,000 tanks from the Warsaw Pact front lines. The withdrawals will include a small number of Soviet tactical nuclear missiles.

This will hardly affect the balance in tactical missiles — the Warsaw Pact currently has nearly 1,400 launchers to NATO's 88. Nevertheless, NATO has spurred repeated Soviet proposals for talks on scrapping short-range missiles, arguing that now medium-range missiles are going to be denuded altogether of a nuclear deterrent.

Kohl has said he does not favour the abolition of short-range missiles, but many West German politicians would like to see talks with the Soviets on reducing them.

It took a major act of nerve for Kohl to agree to the INF treaty, with its inevitable consequence that more emphasis would be placed on short-range systems.

Since he took that decision, his NATO partners have been inclined to look more leniently on his domestic political problems.

## Turkey debates the Ozals — technocrats or sultans?

By Hugh Pope  
Reuters

ISTANBUL — A few steps from the tomb of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent lies what some see as a symbol of the growing power of the family of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Amid the historic turban-topped Ottoman gravestones is a small new addition, a marble stone marking the last resting place of Ozal's mother Hafize.

A cabinet decree is needed for burial in the former royal cemetery, and its rare use last year for a member of the Ozal family signalled the start of a simmering public debate over his family's rise.

There have been unprecedented attacks on Ozal's family by Erdal Inonu, leader of the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party, during the run-up to local elections in March.

"The Ozal family should take their hands off the state... They are plundering the state's resources," he told the liberal Milliyet newspaper in January.

The 61-year-old prime minister however has rejected Inonu's allegations as well as those in the first book about the Ozal family. It became a bestseller after hitting Turkish bookshops last month.

"They consider me like a dynasty," Ozal told Reuters this month. "But I am not a king or emperor... I am a single-party 'national leader.' (We are) all elected by the people."

He noted that Inonu himself was the son of Ismet Inonu, Turkey's long-serving second president and "national leader."

But Ozal family members are in posts of great power, and, despite Ozal's image abroad as a centre-right technocrat, Turkish caricaturists like to draw him in robes as an Ottoman ruler like Suleyman the Magnificent, who died in 1566.

Ozal's youngest brother Yusuf is the minister in charge of the state-dominated economy and the prime minister's cousin, Husnu Dogan, is minister of agriculture.

Younger brother Korkut has nurtured Turkey's growing links with Saudi Arabia. Ozal's banker son Ahmet is a close aide and daughter Zeynep has been involved with Istanbul city politics.

But most powerful of all the Ozal line besides Turgut is said to be his wife Semra. The prime minister is rarely far from her and businessmen have knelt before her in public.

"Turkey may be a democracy, but it is definitely oriental," said one Western diplomat. "It can be pretty bitter if you are not inside the charmed circle."

Semra, a flamboyant figure who smokes cigars and drinks whisky, heads a women's foundation known by its symbol as the daisies, edits a newspaper and campaigns for birth control and women's rights.

Headlines like "Lady Semra, just like the prime minister," greeted her visit this month to the interior ministry to push for women's rights to high posts in the civil service.

"She does good work for charity and is a modern role model for women," a senior leftist columnist told Reuters. "But she is

unelected and strong in domestic policy. That is dangerous for us, the regime, the party and the democratic way of life."

Semra's activism is unusual among politicians' wives in modern Turkey, but some critics say it is an echo of the power of sultans' spouses and mothers in some periods of the Ottoman empire.

"It has not been like this since the time of the sultans," said Emin Colasan, author of the first book about the Ozal family. "Where Did Turgut Spring From?"

"According to some, it's not a family, but a dynasty. And they are all running the state together," Colasan wrote, alleging a network of patronage stretching to distant relatives.

Ozal said Colasan's bitterly anti-Ozal work was "not worth taking seriously" and the fact that it was published and freely sold was a symbol that Turkish democratic values were flourishing.

"In Turkey, a politician should have a big heart, and a bigger stomach to take the punches. Otherwise you cannot be in politics," said Ozal, the eldest son of a poor provincial bank clerk who rose through the civil service as an electrical engineer and state planning official.

Despite Inonu's allegations about Ozal's family, some opposition strategists think that the issue is unlikely to become a major one in the March elections.

An economic boom since 1983 is now slowing fast, accompanied by growing social hardship.

## Peruvians emigrate to escape economic crisis, violence

By David Brough  
Reuters

LIMA — Peruvians are leaving their country in increasing numbers to escape a deepening economic crisis and guerrilla violence, according to recent surveys.

Angry with the plunging value of their wages and frightened they could be victims of a guerrilla attack, many Peruvians say they are leaving in the hope of finding a better future abroad.

Every day lines of more than 500 people wait to collect new passports at the emigration office

in central Lima.

"The situation in Peru is just horrible," said William Brutton Sr., a Peruvian engineer of English descent who plans to leave Peru, following his son to work in the United States.

The son, William Jr, left Lima in January to work as a data processor in a large computing company in Ohio.

"For us it's very dangerous living here," he told Reuters.

He said his family, like many others, feared getting maimed or killed in an attack by Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) or Marxist-Leninist Tupac

Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas.

The MRTA dynamited several restaurants in Lima recently. Sendero Luminoso have blacked out the city and called armed strikes threatening death to people who turned up for work.

A more worrying problem for many is the economy. Inflation of more than 1,700 per cent is biting deep into people's wages.

William Jr, who studied computing at the University of Florida, was astonished to learn how little his friends were earning when he visited Lima in December, his father said.

He found out he would earn up to \$200 a month in Peru, for short of the \$2,500 a month he would receive in the United States.

The Bruttons' case is one example of a "brain drain" that threatens to deprive Peru of talent needed for its economic development.

In January the independent current affairs magazine *Siglo Veintiuno* quoted the case of nuclear engineer Luis Villegas, who was planning to leave Peru with his family and go to another South American country or the United States.

Villegas, who worked at a nuclear power plant at Huarangal, 40 kilometres north of Lima, said he was leaving because his earnings did not reflect his years of study and training.

He was earning about \$70 a month — much less than the \$800 to \$1,000 a month he said he would earn doing the same job in Argentina or Brazil.

A survey published in January by the independent paper *Expresso*, using figures from embassies, said about 150,000 Peruvians emigrated last year, three times the figure for 1987.

Another study, released in January by left-wing senator Enrique Bernaldes, said the pace of emigration had accelerated. It said that last year about 75,000 Peruvians left the country from September to December — about

the same number as from January to August.

*Expresso* said most emigrants were men and women from 19 to 35 years of age who were using tourist and student visas to leave the country. No official emigration figures were available.

The paper said many emigrants sold all their belongings just to pay for their plane tickets and the first few days' stay abroad. Many were leaving Peru for the first time and might never return.

The most frequent destinations were the United States and nearby South American countries such as Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

*Expresso* said the main reasons Peruvians were leaving were to escape inflation, job shortages and guerrilla violence.

Opposition politicians say a consumer boom introduced by President Alan Garcia four years ago has provoked inflation and driven Peru into economic chaos.

Lima's streets are lined with aggressive *cambistas*, unemployed youths buying and selling dollars that Peruvians demand as a hedge against inflation.

The inti currency has slid to record lows against the dollar amid uncertainty over whether Garcia will survive his five-year term to 1990.

Peru has experienced frequent strikes in recent months by workers pressing wage demands to compensate them for soaring prices. There have been two national strikes by metal miners, who are the country's main earners of foreign exchange.

"People are leaving because the country is falling apart," said a petrol station administrator, Luis Enrique Gazzo, who was seeking job opportunities abroad, possibly in Bolivia or Paraguay.

He told Reuters he was earning about \$15 a month, barely enough to live on and a fraction of what he received for doing similar work a few years ago.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

#### Footsteps

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

I WAS trying to write a column for the newspaper when I was interrupted by a question from my little daughter who asked about the number of languages in the world. When I said that I didn't know, she replied "you could know if you wanted to."

"But I don't want to know the number of languages, this would not add anything to my well-being nor would it improve my standing in life," I replied. "There is no point in acquiring knowledge that is of no use to me at all."

My daughter then said: "What is the use of going to school then, since all that we study there is of no use to us? If I have my way I will choose not to go."

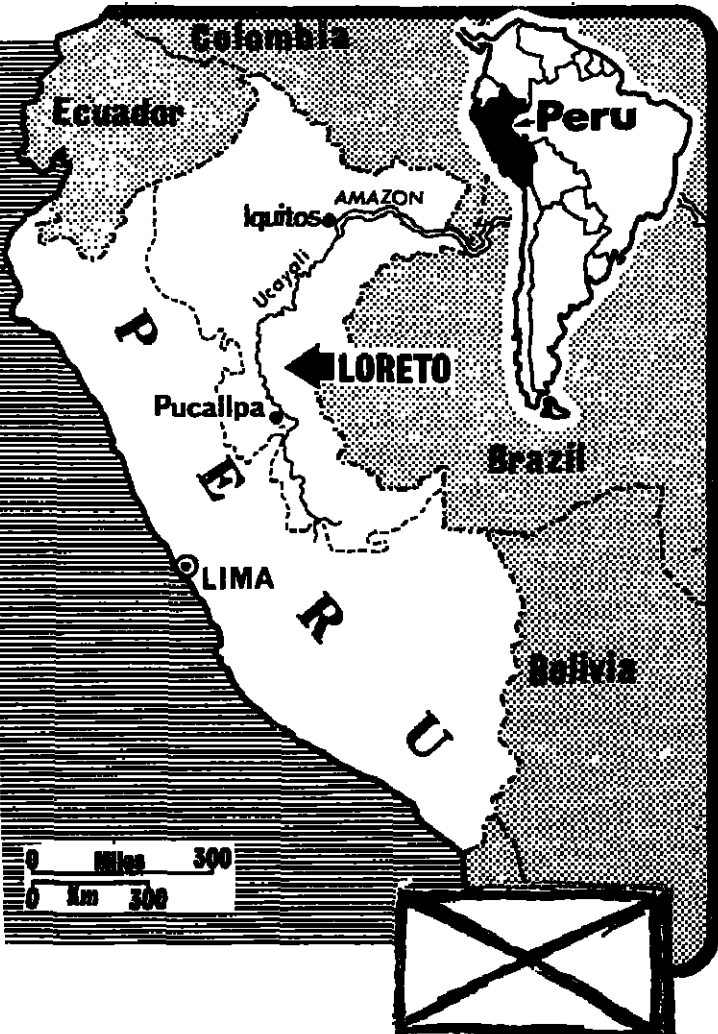
Then she related a story that occurred at school last year. It was severely cold outside, and while the little girls were frozen to their seats, their teachers were gathering around a heater in the staff room, not bothering about the teaching lessons. After two hours, one of the teachers sent a girl to the poor girls saying "dis-

miss". Not one of the teachers bothered to come to the classroom and apologise to the girls for not being able to give any lessons due to the severe weather. What kind of learning would one get at the hands of these teachers? my daughter asked.

At this point I asked her what she wanted me to do. Shall I leave her at home doing nothing, while all boys and girls went to school or university seeking education, so that later she would join the growing number of unemployed in the country? At this we both laughed heartily. Why? Well, because many of us realise that for the past three years there had been no chance for any young women to get employment unless she had a university degree. This does not necessarily mean that a university degree is guaranteed employment. We realise that the Civil Service Commission has piles and piles of applications for employment at government departments.

According to the commission's 1988 report, females' applications accounted for 64 per cent of the total number of applications for employment, or 29.2% out of a total of 45,988. Equality between men and women seems to have been interpreted in a wrong manner, and many seem to have considered equality as referring to the "roles" of men and women. Indeed, we witness nowadays armies of women taking over men's positions in different areas of employment without prompting men to move home to take over women's domestic employment or housework. Should the present trend continue, it would not be surprising to see men assuming physically harsh occupations which are normally shunned by women, and if women pursue their present orientation and continue to adopt imported ideologies, men would find themselves quoting famous American film star Clark Gable when he said: "There is nothing in the world more beautiful than a woman awaiting the return of her husband home and looking forward to hearing his footsteps."

Men will sooner or later be looking for such women among many of those who are now employed — Al Ra'i.





## Rubber tappers of the Amazon

By Tom Quinn

The vast, tranquil green of the western Amazon basin masks the rapid, often brutal, change that has characterised the past decade there, particularly in the states of Rondonia and Acre, Brazil's latest frontier. In both states, and in other parts of the Amazon, Brazil's tremendous economic growth has favoured the development of large-scale enterprises — for example, cattle ranching and agricultural colonisation schemes that are currently bringing nearly 200,000 new settlers into the region each year. Largely ignored have been the more than 500,000 inhabitants of the tropical forest who make their living by gathering raw materials such as natural rubber and Brazil nuts.

This policy has resulted in massive clearing of the forest, usually by the method of cutting and then burning the dense tropical vegetation. Last year, 170,000 fires were counted in Brazil's part of the western Amazon alone. They were most heavily clustered along the 1,100 kilometres of BR-364, the main highway between Curitiba, the principal staging area for colonisation from southern Brazil, and Rondonia's capital, Porto Velho.

The fires are currently contributing one-tenth of the global production of carbon dioxide, the gas judged principally responsible for the warming of the world's climate known as the "greenhouse effect." They have recently prompted Brazil's president, Jose Sarney, who described the fires as

"the red light" that awakened him, to call for a drastic reversal of the Brazilian government's approach to development in the Amazon. In particular, the fires have focused increased attention from international organisations and the Brazilian government on the plight of traditional rural Amazonian communities, both Indian and ethnically mixed caboclo, as well as their sources of livelihood, rubber tapping chief among them.

### Rubber: Boom and backwater

Since the mid-nineteenth-century rubber boom in Brazil, indigenous and caboclo rubber tappers have collected raw latex from natural stands of rubber trees in the Amazon forest, tapping trees along miles-long intersecting networks of rudimentary forest paths. This mode of extraction, often based on tribal or community-based common property customs, proved to be sustainable over generations. Brazilian productivity, however, lagged behind plantation competitors in Southeast Asia. With the end of the Amazon rubber boom in the 1910s, rubber tapping became an economic backwater on the frontier, with little or no power to influence government policy.

But in 1985, after more than a decade of organising, representatives of sixteen rural workers' unions and other local organisations from four Amazon states succeeded in forming the National Council of Rubber Tappers.

The council presented demands to the state and federal governments for increased social services, higher rubber prices, and fundamental change in regional development planning.

The centrepiece of the council's programme has been to work toward the creation of "extractive reserves," or common forests, in large areas of the Amazon where rubber and other useful trees grow. Rubber tappers are asking that these reserves be used only for the sustainable harvest of forest products. Rubber-tapper leaders have presented their proposal before hearings of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. And the international advocacy of Francisco Mendes, president of the rural workers' union in Xapuri, Acre, has persuaded the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to endorse the common forest concept in loan renewals to the Amazon region.

### The Amazonian alliance

The rubber tappers' call for extractive reserves has also been enthusiastically endorsed by those in Brazil's budding environmental and indigenous movements. In 1986 the Council of Rubber Tappers and the Union of Indigenous Nations formed an "Amazonian Alliance" in order to press for the creation of common forests and the demarcation of Indian lands.

After a long and complicated effort, enough public pressure

was generated for the creation, in both Acre and Rondonia, of state forestry and environmental protection agencies. And in February 1988 the governor of Acre, Flaviano Melo, proclaimed the establishment of the first common forest in Brazil.

In Rondonia, the state government has also taken up the initiative to establish common forests. In marked contrast to Acre, however, where grass-roots rubber-tapper organisations have pressured the state government for more than a decade to resolve land conflicts, rural communities in Rondonia are less organised. For common forests to fulfill their promise in Rondonia, considerable organising work still needs to be done.

Recent research has shown that the highly diversified production practices of rubber tappers offer sustainable returns when compared with either colonist farming or cattle ranching, especially in light of the soil exhaustion caused by the latter activities in the fragile tropical environment. But the area needed for a household to sustain itself in the forest currently averages more than 600 acres, and ways must be found to enrich the forest to enable some measure of intensification.

### Access to resources

Building on Foundation approaches in other tropical countries, the principal focus of the Brazil office's Rural Poverty and Resources programme has been to link resource conserva-

tion to the creation of better livelihoods for the rural poor. In the Amazon region this takes the form of support for activities through which rural communities, intermediary organisations, research and teaching institutions, and government agencies can work together toward establishing that link.

Recently the Foundation made grants totaling \$400,000 to assist efforts to create forest reserves in Rondonia and Acre. At the centre of these grants, observes programme officer Peter May, are "the people who live and struggle and survive as rubber tappers."

Says May, "We're working with them because of their expression of concern for access to the resources on which they depend. It's all the better that this also coincides with objectives of the environmental movement and with global concern for the quality of the earth's atmosphere."

The National Council of Rubber Tappers received \$50,000 to help establish referral centres in the capital cities of Acre and Rondonia. In those centres, full-time staff will field inquiries from rural communities, raise pressing problems with relevant state officials, monitor local land conflicts, and organise meetings.

The Institute for Amazon Studies, which has played a crucial role in galvanising support for the common-forest concept and which has already undertaken a Foundation-assisted legal advocacy and research programme in support of the rubber tappers'



In a tropical forest in Acre, a rubber tapper scores a tree to start the flow of natural latex into collection vessels.

movement, received \$155,200. The institute, headquartered in Curitiba in southeastern Brazil, will use the money to expand its advocacy for natural-resource management by Amazonian peoples, to provide legal and technical assistance to the Council of Rubber Tappers and the state government agencies authorised to create common forests, and to lay the base for the opening of an institute office in the western Amazon.

A grant of \$50,000 to the Acre State Technology Foundation will support field work and planning

for the management of Brazil's first common forest in Acre. The Federal University of Acre, which received two grants totalling \$140,050, will serve as a partner in the planning, and will collaborate with staff members from the University of Florida's Amazon Research and Training Programme to develop a programme in agroforestry and farming practices that would be suitable to the Amazon forest.

Finally, the Rondonia State Forestry Institute received \$44,220 to conduct surveys in areas where conditions are con-

ducive to the creation of common forests. In keeping with the emphasis on collaborative research, representatives of the Council of Rubber Tappers will be involved in training the survey field team, and members of the rural communities will take part in discussions of the research results.

In a related series of actions, the Foundation's field office in Lima, Peru, recently made a series of grants using a similar collaborative approach for improving resource management in the Amazon basin.

## Rebels talk of toppling Khomeini; experts call it a pipedream

By Neil Macfarquhar  
The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — Iran's main opposition group says it has the military ability to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fundamentalist government, but military analysts question the assertion.

Hussein Mahdavi, a senior official of the Iraqi-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, would not say how many years it might take to overthrow Iran's government.

"If you look at the decisions... inside the Khomeini regime, and compare it to the resistance ready at any time to overthrow the regime, you cannot seriously speak about needing years," he said in an interview with the AP.

"We've shown that we have the ability to militarily overthrow this regime," he added, referring to the large-scale incursion by the Mujahadeen's military arm, the National Liberation Army (NLA), into western Iran just before the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

While the Mujahadeen still say the operation was a major victory, diplomats say the rebels were mauled by Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards.

The Mujahadeen admit to losing 1,000 fighters. In addition, thousands of their supporters inside Iran were arrested and many believed executed.

Diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the opera-

tion, called Eternal Light, undermined whatever support the rebels had inside Iran as many were forced to flee and left it seriously weakened.

The NLA pushed 150 kilometres into Bakhtaran province before they were pushed back.

Talk of overthrowing Khomeini is "sheer dreaming and sheer stupidity" said one western military analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"What could they do? Where would they go? They got destroyed in the Eternal Light operation."

### Capturing territory

Much of the civilian population had been moved away from the border during the eight-year-old Gulf war, so capturing territory would be a limited threat to the government, analysts said.

They argued that it was highly unlikely that the rebels, whose strength by the most optimistic estimate is around 15,000 fighters, could overwhelm the Iranian army.

With Tehran more than 550 kilometres east of the border, any force attempting to move on the capital would be badly exposed with a long, vulnerable supply line without vital air support, the analysts said.

"They could get in, but they'd not get anywhere with substance. They'd be waxed along the way," one Western analyst commented.

Even if the rebels did have an army prepared to cross the border, the analysts said, Iraq appears committed to peace negotiations and would be unlikely to let them reignite the Gulf war.

Iraqi officials declined to comment on the Mujahadeen's future, or that of smaller Iranian resistance groups also based in Iraq, while peace negotiations with Iran have stalled.

"Everything on those issues will be dependent on Iranian behaviour," said Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdon. "It's premature to address this point at the moment."

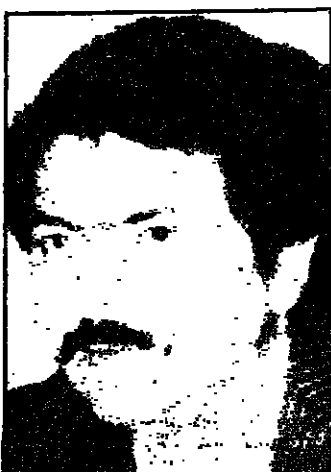
### Iraqi position

Thus far the Mujahadeen appear to hold wide support in Iraq. They still broadcast a nightly half-hour television programme and one diplomat noted that the post office box listed on their official paper is the same used by the Culture and Information Ministry.

But Iraq has expelled Iranian resistance groups before. Khomeini himself spent 15 years in the holy city of Najaf but was asked to leave in 1978 during a moment of détente in Iran-Iraq relations.

Mahdavi said conditions have changed since then. He noted: "This time there has been an eight-year war between the two countries with a sea of victims between both borders."

He conceded that a peace treaty might mean Iraq barring the Mujahadeen from staging military operations across the border. He would not say if they are conducting such operations now.



Massoud Rajavi

But said they have no problem moving back and forth into Iran. Mahdavi accused Iran of avoiding a peace treaty because of internal differences and said that if Tehran did agree to a treaty it might trigger a civil war.

"They'll have to resort to killings and purges within the ranks," he said. "In such a state the in-fighting would create an atmosphere similar to that of the revolution."

"At that time the NLA... will embark on overthrowing the Khomeini regime," Mahdavi said.

The Mujahadeen were allied with Khomeini in the 1979 revolution that toppled Iran's monarchy. But the fundamentalists turned on their liberal and leftist allies in 1981-82, killing thousands in a bloody purge.

Mahdavi, 43, was a former governor of Iran's Zanjan province and held numerous government posts under Khomeini before he fled in 1982.

## 'White Zulu' sets anti-apartheid trend for young South Africans

## Songs of the soul and enlightened colonialists

By Gill Tudor  
Reuters

**JOHANNESBURG** — Johnny Clegg, a Zulu-speaking white musician whose Afro-Western rhythms have proved popular in Europe, is making anti-apartheid politics fashionable among South Africa's privileged white youth.

Known as "Je zoulou blanc"

language freely between English and Zulu. But the idyll is punctuated by hard-edged condemnation of South Africa's apartheid racial segregation.

In a tribute to jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela, he sings: "Asimbonanga Mandela, laph'ehleli khona". Zulu for "we have not seen Mandela in the place where he is kept."

"They said I should learn to speak a little bit of English, maybe practice birth control, keep away from controversial politics so as to save my third world soul"

(The white Zulu) to his French fans, Clegg has notched up a string of hits abroad with his energetic blend of western rock and traditional African music.

Now he and his band Savuka have returned for a brief tour in their home country, where his appeals for racial unity seem to be hitting home more than ever among South Africa's largely apolitical white youth.

### New direction

"I think the role of any musician is to have two or three songs on an album which push people's perceptions or fears or hopes in a new direction," Clegg recently told reporters.

Clegg feels South African musicians should sing about their own experiences rather than mouth bland international lyrics. His own songs often celebrate traditional African life, switching

in time to the music. Some held up flickering cigarette lighters in solidarity with the lyrics.

"The ship we're sailing on doesn't have to be the Titanic," Clegg told them.

"We have every problem out in the open that other countries have hidden, and I believe we'll be the first country to solve those problems. You people have got to be a part of that."

Clegg acknowledged that many people were there not because of his political message but simply because it was fashionable.

"Unfortunately, small cult operations don't really have a maximum impact and when you make something fashionable you're inserting it into the cultural mainstream. You're saying it's cool to talk about Mandela and political prisoners," he said.

"There'll obviously be a good 60 per cent who don't really give a damn but you've reached far more people — you'll have 15 or 20 per cent whose lives you've really changed."

Clegg, 35, was hooked on African music as a teenager when he heard black migrant workers playing guitar in the streets around his Johannesburg home.

He asked one to teach him their distinctive style of playing, and through them he learnt Zulu and the tribal dancing which forms an integral part of his act.

At 16 he teamed up with Sipho Mchunu, a young gardener, and in 1978 they started recording together under the name Juluka. Clegg later gave up his job as a university lecturer in anthropology

to work full-time in music. "I'd been playing traditional Zulu music for a long time, and I was very interested in finding a common ground for both Western and African forms," Clegg explained.

"So I was introducing certain western dynamics, which actually increased its appeal."

Juluka's early audiences were almost entirely black — at that time playing to racially-mixed crowds was illegal but easier to get away with in the black townships, where their fame spread by word of mouth.

### Banned white

Even so, Clegg estimates that during one year, 1982, police broke up 10 to 15 per cent of their shows. His anti-apartheid stance also meant state-run television and radio systematically ignored him and banned some of his songs from the airwaves.

Juluka split up in 1985 when Mchunu returned to farm cattle in the Zulu heartland of Natal province. Savuka was born soon afterwards, replacing Juluka's folk base with a more rock feel.

Clegg admits his black support has waned and puts this down mainly to negative coverage in the conservative black press. But his optimism about racial harmony is as strong as ever.

In "missing", a song on detentions without trial, he sings: "I want you to know that this state will never last. Maybe better days are coming and we'll make peace with the past."

The song drew one of the loudest cheers of the evening.

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## Readmission to OAPC highly certain

## Egypt willing to consider oil output cuts

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Tuesday it was willing to consider cutting its oil output and would stick by any pact among other producers outside OPEC to help stabilise the world oil market.

"We are willing to consider any cuts and abide by any agreement reached among the non-OPEC group," Hamad Ayoub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He was speaking before leaving for London to lead Egypt's delegation to next week's scheduled meeting of oil producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The talks will be attended by experts from Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman. Observers from the

Soviet Union, Norway, North Yemen, the Canadian province of Alberta and U.S. states of Texas and Alaska are also expected.

Ayoub said that non-OPEC countries agreed last month in London to consider measures to help stabilise world markets.

OPEC introduced new output quotas on Jan. 1 for its 13 members which has cut their production by more than 15 per cent.

"There are a variety of measures to be considered including cuts, limiting exports or even capping outputs. It all depends on a general understanding among the participants," Ayoub said.

He added that the non-OPEC experts in London would make recommendations to their ministers, scheduled to meet in March.

He said Egypt's production in recent weeks varied between 870,000 barrels per day (b/d) and 920,000 b/d "but when Egypt gave OPEC its word to curb production we kept the level at 870,000."

Egypt, which exports about one-third of its production, is selling its top Suez and Ras Bahar grades at \$14.75 a barrel this month.

Ayoub said that prices, normally reviewed in the middle of each month, might not be changed until the end of February.

Production restraints remained

one of the main discussion points among oil producers, he added. "The economic situation of each country has to be carefully evaluated. A country relying heavily on oil revenues should not be expected to make drastic cuts," he said.

Ayoub mentioned Colombia as an example of a country which needed huge revenues to overcome economic difficulties following an earthquake last year. Egypt itself, burdened by \$43 billion of foreign debt, also depends heavily on oil for hard currency earnings.

In Kuwait, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPC) is almost certain to readmit Egypt when it meets in Kuwait on May 15, Acting

Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Wattari said Tuesday.

The move would be another sign of Egypt's rehabilitation in the Arab World after its suspension from the Arab League and other pan-Arab organisations in 1979 because of its peace treaty with Israel.

"Judging from voting records in other organisations on the matter... it's almost a foregone conclusion that Egypt's membership will be reactivated," Wattari told Reuters.

Formed in 1968 to promote joint Arab energy projects, OAPC groups Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. Only Libya, Lebanon and Syria

have not restored diplomatic relations with Egypt since a 1987 Arab summit that gave Arab states the green light to do so.

Wattari said the return of Egypt would require support of three-quarters of the membership including two founding members. The same conditions apply to the quorum, so even a boycott of the meeting by Libya and Syria would not block approval.

An OAPC spokesman said a majority of ministers from member states had agreed to attend.

OAPC states together produce nearly one-fourth of the world's oil. They have formed joint ventures and companies in oil transport, engineering, investment and training to further Arab economic integration.

## Largest Swiss bank discloses big losses

LONDON (R) — Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), the largest Swiss bank, has lost more than \$115 million (\$200 million) on its London securities business since April 1987, the Financial Times said Tuesday.

In an early edition, the paper quoted Rudolf Mueller, UBS chief executive and head of the bank's British operations, as saying he wanted to make a full public disclosure of its losses in order to put an end to damaging speculation.

The Financial Times said the losses made UBS "one of the largest known casualties of the recent turmoil in the world stock markets."

Mueller said performance of the bank's London securities

business had been "totally unacceptable" and had forced UBS to make far-reaching management changes.

But there would be no mass redundancies of the sort ordered by other ailing financial houses in London in recent months.

The losses were incurred almost entirely by Phillips and Drew, the London stockbroker firm bought in 1986 ahead of London's "Big Bang" deregulation of the financial markets.

In the year ending in March 1988, which included the 1987 stock market crash, Phillips and Drew lost \$66 million (\$116 million) and in the following nine months it lost a further \$30 million (\$53 million).

## OECD: Italy should act to reduce budget deficit

PARIS (R) — Italy should take action to cut its high government budget deficit, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

The Mediterranean country also faced the danger that strong economic growth could rekindle inflation and widen its trade deficit, the Paris-based think-tank said.

In its first report on Italy in 17 months, the 24-nation OECD forecast that Italy's growth rate, estimated at 3.75 per cent in 1988, would slow to 3.5 per cent this year and 2.75 per cent in 1990.

If this occurred, "inflation would ease a little and the deterioration in the external balance would be only modest, with the current account deficit widening from about \$4 billion in 1988 to about \$6 billion in 1990," the report said.

Inflation should hold around 4 per cent this year, falling to 3.75 per cent by the second half of 1990, it added.

But it warned that consumer and industrial demand risked

growing more strongly, increasing domestic demand for higher wages and widening the current account deficit.

"The size of recent (wage) settlements is a matter of some concern in view of continued high level of unemployment," the OECD said.

It was also essential that an accord between government and unions on improving efficiency and flexibility in the public sector be put into practice.

Italian governments had missed a chance in recent years to use benefits from low oil prices, a large dollar depreciation and a 30 per cent increase in export markets to reduce its overall spending deficit significantly, the OECD said.

Now that 1988 and 1989 economic growth looked stronger than first thought it was clearly important that such higher revenues be used to reduce the deficit, and not to increase expenditure. Because of a failure in the 1960s and 1970s to curb public sector spending, Italy now faces by far the heaviest overall debt load of all developed nations.

## Top official cautions against high hopes for new Third World debt strategy

LONDON (R) — Hopes for a dramatic new solution to the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt crisis might be running too high, the head of the IMF and World Bank's development panel said Monday.

Yves Fortin, executive secretary of the Joint Development Committee, said some progress had been made in tackling the debt problems of poor African nations but cautioned it would be wrong to expect a radical new strategy.

"Perhaps expectations are building up too fast," he told reporters at a briefing in London

on the committee's next meeting due in Washington at the start of April.

The debt crisis has returned to centre stage following a year of economic gloom in Latin America and as U.S. President Bush conducts a review of Washington's strategy.

The Group of Seven industrial nations — the U.S., Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany — also launched a new push to tackle the problem when they met in Washington for two days at the start of February.

Fortin said the current strategy for countries to grow out of their

debt, based on a 1985 plan by then U.S. treasury secretary James Baker, had achieved mixed results. Schemes to cut the burden were useful but insufficient without new lending.

The U.S. administration is due to release to Congress the results of a review of its debt strategy next week, while officials from major industrial countries have been examining the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

That second review has taken on added importance following

well-publicised differences between the World Bank and IMF in how they see their role in managing the debt crisis.

European monetary sources said the Group of Seven nations wanted to set out guidelines for a new strategy at the IMF's spring meeting at the end of March, but it was unclear now if the review by their deputies would be ready by then.

But political pressure is building for discussion by leaders of the seven nations at their summit set for Paris in July.

## Kuwait completes drive to modernise refineries

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has completed a multi-billion dollar, eight-year programme to modernise its domestic oil refineries and boost their capacity by 28 per cent, a Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) spokesman said Tuesday.

He told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah would next Monday inaugurate the newly modernised and expanded Mina Abdullah refinery, the last of three covered by the programme.

The \$2 billion project at Mina Abdullah south of Kuwait City hiked its capacity to 200,000 barrels per day (b/d) from 75,000 b/d and made it one of the world's most modern, the spokesman said.

Kuwait has aggressively expanded oil refining operations at home and abroad to maximise

revenue from its crude. The northern Gulf state, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces more than two-thirds of its oil as refined products.

The \$5 billion modernisation scheme has boosted capacity of the three main domestic refineries to 670,000 b/d, the spokesman said.

Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah last month put Kuwait's oil production at its OPEC quota of 1,037 million b/d. Kuwait also owns refineries in the Netherlands and Denmark in addition to around 5,000 European petrol stations.

The Mina Abdullah refinery produces almost no fuel oil, a product less in demand than lighter distillates such as gas oil and kerosene.

## Report reveals \$8 billion loss in Mexican reserves

MEXICAN CITY (AP) — Mexico's foreign reserves plummeted from a record \$16 billion to around \$8 billion last year, one of the most severe costs of an otherwise successful anti-inflation programme, a private think tank says.

The government sought to induce an inflation-curing recession, but failed until the second half of 1988, the centre said. The economy grew by 0.5 per cent in 1988 but was shrinking at the end of the year, the report said.

said in a review of the Mexican anti-inflation programme.

Some \$700 million in capital returned to Mexico in January, even after the government instituted a gradual peso devaluation, the central bank announced.

The government sought to induce an inflation-curing recession, but failed until the second half of 1988, the centre said. The economy grew by 0.5 per cent in 1988 but was shrinking at the end of the year, the report said.

## U.S. steel firms prepare to fight foreign rivals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major U.S. steel companies are spending millions of dollars to try to support allegations of unfair trading practices by leading steel-exporting nations.

It's all part of a campaign by the U.S. steel industry to win an extension of a series of pacts that set production-by-product limits on the Amok T of foreign steel that can be shipped into the United States.

The pacts were negotiated by the administration of president Ronald Reagan with Japan, South Korea, Brazil and other nations in 1984 in response to complaints by U.S. companies that they could not compete with a flood of subsidised, foreign imports.

The agreements expire Sept. 30, and USX Corp., Bethlehem Steel Corp. and other leading steelmakers want to be certain they are renewed. The administration of President George Bush has pledged its support for the pacts, although no specifics have been offered on whether they would be continued exactly in their present form.

Wild cards in the deal are the nations themselves. They are under no obligation to restrict their imports again, as they did voluntarily five years ago.

In order to pressure these trading partners, American companies have been paying millions of dollars to lawyers to compile so-called "unfair trading cases" against the countries, according to USX and Bethlehem executives.

In the cases, the lawyers are

detailing allegations of foreign government subsidies and steel "dumping," or the selling of products in the United States at below fair-market value.

The unfair trading cases may never actually be filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission, an independent agency with authority to order tariffs or other import relief for injured domestic industries.

But the American companies are compiling the cases anyway so the United States can use the information as leverage in negotiations.

Trade cases are "an alternative, an expensive undesirable alternative," Robert Boni, chief executive officer of Armco Inc., said in a recent interview.

While steel industry officials are reluctant to publicly discuss the specifics of such cases, Boni said Armco, of Parsippany, New Jersey, has spent \$2 million recently just on lawyers who are compiling them.

Under the five-year trade pacts, imports have been reduced from 26.4 per cent of the American market in 1984, to about 20.5 per cent last year. Meanwhile, employment and profits were up last year over 1988.

While U.S. steel companies say they continue to need the protection of import curbs, some other American manufacturers contend the restraints have created steel shortages in the United States and driven up prices.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## Arab funds pledge to help Sudan

KUWAIT (R) — Sudan's finance minister said Monday that seven Arab aid funds meeting in Kuwait have pledged their commitment to the development of Sudan. Omar Nour Al Dayem told a news conference in Kuwait Sudan had no immediate plans to join either of two emerging Arab blocs. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has proposed that Sudan and three non-Arab African states should join one of the two blocs — an Arab Maghreb union comprising Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania. Nour Al Dayem said his talks with the seven funds covered new relief aid needed to rebuild areas devastated by floods last year and the repayment of arrears from earlier loans. The funds have extended loans totalling \$1.7 billion to Sudan, burdened by a total foreign debt of some \$15 billion that it has not fully serviced since the early 1980s. Nour Al Dayem said he hoped for good relations with Western creditors, but indicated that Sudan did not want them to attach what he called political conditions to new aid.

## Belgian Hansenne to head ILO

GENEVA (AP) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monday elected Michel Hansenne, Belgium's minister of civil service, as its new director-general for a five-year term. Hansenne, due to take office Feb. 27, replaces Francis Blanchard of France, who has headed the U.N. agency for three terms since 1974. Hansenne, a 48-year-old lawyer, received a required majority of 38 votes in the second round of secret voting by the ILO's 56-member executive governing body, an official announcement said. The only other candidate, former Tunisian labour minister Mohammed Ennaceur, polled 22 votes on the inconclusive first ballot, where Hansenne got 28. Ennaceur received no support in the second round, where 17 blank ballots and one void vote were cast. Hansenne was appointed Belgian civil service minister last May after 6½ years as minister of labour and employment. He was minister for French culture in 1979-81 and has been a member of parliament since 1974. The ILO, originally founded in 1919, is the oldest U.N. agency. Grouping union, government and management representatives, it sets labour standards worldwide.

## Kuwait to pay \$28m in compensation

KUWAIT (AP) — The government of Kuwait will pay Saudi Arabia eight million Kuwaiti dinars (\$28 million) in compensation for Saudi nationals who own property in the Kuwaiti portion of a divided zone between the two countries, an official decree said Monday. The decree was published Monday in the Official Gazette, thus making it binding. The agreement was initially concluded Nov. 7 during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. The compensation is part of a final settlement of issues that remained pending after the two countries agreed in 1965 to split between them what was then known as the "Neutral Zone." Under the provisions of the decree, the government of Kuwait will also compensate for the property its own citizens lost when Saudi Arabia claimed its portion of the Neutral Zone. The Neutral Zone is an oil-rich area being exploited on behalf of the two countries by a Japanese company through the Arabian Oil Company and by Getty Oil of the United States.

## U.K. loses £670m from oil accidents

LONDON (R) — Accidents in North Sea oil fields have cost Britain £670 million (\$1.2 billion) in lost revenues since last summer, Energy Minister Peter Morrison said Monday. "Up to the end of January production of some 9.5 million tonnes, worth some £670 million at today's prices, has been deferred as a result of the recent accidents," he said. The biggest accident was the fire at the Piper Alpha rig last July that killed 167 people. "It is too early to say when all this production will be resumed and hence to estimate the final cost," Morrison told parliament.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.8	427.4
Pound Sterling	945.1	954.8	Dutch guilder	255.8	258.2
Deutschemark	286.7	291.6	Swedish crown	85.0	85.8
Swiss franc	339.9	343.3	Italian lira (for 100)	39.6	40.0
French franc	84.9	85.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.8	139.1

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7580/90	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1845/55	Canadian dollar
	1.8623/30	Deutschemark
	2.1015/25	Dutch guilders
	1.5815/25	Swiss francs
	38.98/39.02	Belgian francs
	6.3325/75	French francs
	1356/1357	Italian lire
	127.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.3275/3325	Swedish crowns
	6.7325/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.2400/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	385.40/385.80	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed higher in tentative trading, recovering lost ground after Monday's 30-point slide. The All Ordinaries index rose 8.5 to 1,487.0.

TOKYO — Share prices fluctuated in narrow trade to end slightly lower on concern over the drop in popularity of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The Nikkei index fell 2.43 to close at 31,982.89.

HONG KONG — The market closed sharply lower on consolidation, with the Hang Seng index falling below the psychologically important 3,100 level. The index fell 53.76 to 3,099.97.

SINGAPORE — Share prices fell sharply for the second consecutive trading day, pushing the Straits Times industrial index 19.53 points lower to 1,120.17.

BOMBAY — Prices staged a recovery after a week-long slide, on active institutional and speculative buying. Aluminium and cement stocks were much in demand on rumours that the government could allow an increase in controlled prices.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mixed after a day of scant trading, with investors worried that the Bundesbank would raise interest rates at its central council meeting on Thursday. The DAX index fell 2.3 to 1,331.47.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady to higher in fairly active trading. Shares made up initial losses on selective buying at the lower levels.

PARIS — Prices turned lower by mid-session, with some selling prompted by growing sentiment that key world interest rates would turn higher this week.

LONDON — Shares climbed to new highs for the day as Wall Street shrugged off stronger than expected U.S. retail sales growth figures for January. At 1502 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 21.2 to 2,053.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks gained in morning trading, with blue chip Union Carbide strong on news of a smaller than expected Bhopal settlement. The Dow was up 16 to 2,298.

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# Sports

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Bahia and Inter meet in final

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Bahia and Internacional will meet in the finals of the national soccer championship and will also represent Brazil in the continent-wide liberators of America Cup tournament. The teams qualified for the finals with come-from-behind victories in their semifinal series Sunday. In Salvador, Bahia upset Fluminense of Rio 2-1, while Internacional downed archrival Gremio 2-1 in Porto Alegre. Bahia and Inter meet Wednesday in Salvador for the opening match of the home-and-away final series. The second game is set for Sunday in Porto Alegre. Bahia is the surprise finalist of the tournament, which started in September with 24 clubs. The club has not reached a national final since 1959 when it won the Brazil cup, the equivalent of the national title.

### Zivojinovic downs Dombia

MILAN (AP) — Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia defeated Senegal's Yahiya Dombia Monday in the first round of the \$492,500 Stella Artois indoor tennis championships. In the absence of the main attractions, top seed Boris Becker and No. 3 John McEnroe, Zivojinovic was the highest-ranked player in daytime action at the opening of the Nabisco Grand Prix tournament. The hard-hitting Yugoslav, who reached the final four at Wimbledon three years ago and is now ranked 35th in the world, had to fight for almost two hours to down Dombia 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

### East German selection blasts Egyptians, 4-0.

CAIRO (AP) — East Germany's Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom scored all four goals Monday as the Germans handed Egypt its worst soccer loss in three years, 4-0, in an international friendly. In February 1986 an Egyptian national selection lost by an identical 4-0 score to England. Except for a brief period of Egyptian control in the opening minutes, East Germany controlled Monday's game throughout. The home defense was particularly lacking, drawing boos from an estimated 20,000 home fans. Kirsten, the East German midfielder, opened the scoring in the fourth minute with a header off a pass from centre-forward Thom. Kirsten put it home to the right of Egyptian goalkeeper Ahmed Shobier. Thom made the score 2-0 at halftime with a goal in the 42nd minute.

### Cantona moves to Bordeaux

PARIS (R) — Moody French soccer star Eric Cantona, suspended from both the national squad and first division Marseille for temper tantrums, has been transferred to Bordeaux, the two clubs said Tuesday. "We needed a great player and he is one, a little difficult it's true, a bit special, but we're difficult and special too," Bordeaux president Claude Bez said.



In Jesse Owens' shadow

NEW YORK (R) — Matt Biondi, Florence Griffith Joyner and Steve Nunn are in contention for the 1989 Jesse Owens international trophy award, the sports award's executive director announced Monday.

Biondi, star of the 1988 U.S. Olympic swimming team, won seven medals in as many races in Seoul. He garnered five golds, one silver and one bronze and set a world record in the 50 metres freestyle event.

Griffith Joyner, another U.S. Olympic star, won recognition as the fastest woman in the world after taking the gold medal in both the 100 and 200 metres in Seoul. She set world records at both distances last year and also won a gold and a silver in Olympic relay events.

Graf, the number one woman player in the world, made tennis history last year by completing the Grand Slam. The West German then added an Olympic gold medal to her U.S. French and Australian Open and Wimbledon singles titles.

The Jesse Owens award, named after the 1936 quadruple Olympic champion, was founded in 1980 by executive director Herbert Douglas, the 1948 Olympic long jump bronze medalist.

The winner, chosen by an international panel, is given annually to "the amateur athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes sincere cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations."

The winner will be honoured on February 21. Last year's recipient was Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

## Limassol ban to last until end '89

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus expects an international match ban at Limassol stadium imposed by world soccer's governing body to last until the end of the year, an island football official said Tuesday.

The ban by the International Football Federation (FIFA) followed rioting by local fans at last week's Cyprus-Scotland World Cup qualifier which the Scots won 3-2.

Cyprus expected a fine and possibly a ban on international matches at Limassol's Tsirion stadium until the end of the year, the Cyprus Football Association official told Reuters.

"It is not an indefinite ban. It is only until FIFA's inquiry into the incidents... last week is completed," he said.

A FIFA statement Monday said the ban was indefinite.

The official said FIFA had asked for the association to prepare a report by February 20 on the match violence in which East German referee Siegfried Kirschchen was pelted with missiles, including water-filled plastic bottles, as the match ended.

Kirschchen had extended play by six minutes because of time-wasting by the Cypriots. During this period of extra play Scotland scored their winning goal.

"FIFA has alleged that Cyprus wasted time either because we did not have enough ballboys on duty or that they were not properly instructed," the official said.

Director of the association Andreas Sykianou told Reuters that there were 12 ballboys present at the match.

## Tomba downed at Vail

VAIL, Colorado (AP) — The world's best skiers began leaving this posh Rocky mountain resort Monday, some with considerably more momentum than others as they plunge into the final leg of the World Cup season.

The 1989 World Alpine ski championships made instant stars of Austrians Rudolf Nierlich and Ulrike Maier, West Germany's Hansjoerg Tauscher and Switzerland's Martin Hangl, while affirming the status of Vreni Schneider, Marc Girardelli, Pirmin Zurbriggen and Tamara McKinney.

Italy's Alberto Tomba was the big loser. After nine victories and two Olympic gold medals a year ago, "La Bomba" exploded in the faces of his fans and coaches, failing to win a world championship medal in a performance that mirrored a so-far disappointing World Cup season that has seen him win but one race.

Moments after Tomba fell face-first in the first run of Sunday's final event — the men's slalom — the Italian head coach, Josef Messner, toppled with him. Messner announced his resignation under fire.

Italy failed to win a world championship medal for the first time since 1970, and an embarrassed Carlo Valentino, president of the Italian Ski Federation, promised some changes.

"The team must be rebuilt," Valentino said. "Tomba must be rebuilt like the rest of the team. He must mature and learn to defend himself against distractions. The federation will keep him under control."

Tomba began the season overweight and out of shape, his off-season interrupted by too many parties and commercial en-

deavours. Observed West Germany's Armin Bittner, "Maybe Tomba took it too easy. He was not aware of how much training the other skiers were doing. He had a great season last year, but he stayed at the same level over the summer while the other skiers improved. What happened to him is understandable."

Tomba, 22, has complained of diminished concentration and lack of luck this season. Already facing criticism at home from the media and his fans, he knows he must rebound in the remaining world cup races. Otherwise, as one Italian writer predicted, "they will kill him in the press."

"After my disappointments here, the only thing left for me to do is to concentrate on the World Cup events that are left," Tomba said.

The men have three races in Aspen this weekend and two races in Canada the following week, before the season culminates in Japan in March. Women have two downhill races in Canada's Lake Louise this weekend, two subsequent race steamboat springs and the Japan finale.

Vail and Beaver Creek received high ratings for their staging of the championships, with Switzerland claiming 11 medals to Austria's six but both countries tie with three gold medals apiece. Nierlich, an emerging 22-year-old gate skier, was only double gold-medalist, winning the giant slalom and slalom.

"The whole organisation was absolutely fabulous," said Sepp Lang, one of the founders of World Cup.

## Skier plans Everest run

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP) — An American skier who became the first person to hang glide off Mount Everest said he might try a ski trip down the world's highest mountain if he could get the right financial incentive.

"I haven't made up my mind on the thing yet," Steve McKinney said in an interview last week from Vail, Colorado. "I don't know if I'm up for more misery or not. I may have had my quota."

McKinney, who set five world speed skiing records between 1974 and 1983, performed his hang-glide feat in 1986.

Later he made plans for a ski run down the 29,028-foot (8,847-metre) mountain. But it never happened.

On Oct. 6, 1987, McKinney was competing in the World Cup speed skiing championships, Chile when a helicopter in which he and two other skiers were riding crashed and rolled over three times.

McKinney was hurled through the bubble of the helicopter, suffered facial cuts requiring stitches, multiple fractures of his right arm and a crushed right shoulder.

No one has ever skied Mount Everest from the summit.

"But I'm convinced it can be done," McKinney told the Lexington Herald-Leader. "You have to be roped up and ski properly — short, controlled turns. It's not a place to go for a run."

## U.S. hopes high in youth soccer

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The head of the 43-member American squad sent to the Fifth World Youth Soccer Cup says it does not have much hope of winning the event, but believes the exposure will give the game a boost back home.

American Walter Bahr said the American players in the tournament, all under 21 years old, had "very little exposure to world soccer," but said he hoped they would reach the semi-finals in the 16-team tournament that starts Thursday.

"Brazil, and Mali and East Germany — they'll all be tough games and I'm not just saying that," he said when the team arrived in this eastern Saudi city late Sunday. "We'll be very happy if we can advance to the next round."

The official stated that the young Americans were excited to have won a place in the championship and that the participation would "give the game of soccer good exposure back home in the States."

Bahr said no one in the group had been to Saudi Arabia before. "It's been enlightening. It's been outstanding so far. The reception, the hospitality has all been first class," he said.

He said that he was talking to some Saudi students in the United States told him before coming that in the kingdom and asked them what he should bring here. They said "Nothing — the Saudis will have more to give you than you can possibly give them. Well, we've found that to be the case."

Some of the teams arrived a bit bedraggled from the long haul to the Middle East.

Arturo Butramante, manager of the Colombian team told reporters in Damman: "Our team came to Saudi Arabia through New York, then Amsterdam. It's

taken us three days. We're very tired. They (the players) like Saudi Arabia very much. There are very good sports facilities."

The teams from the Soviet Union, Mali, Nigeria, Portugal, Brazil and Spain also arrived late Sunday.

The Colombian and Soviet teams stayed in Damman, where they are pitted against each other, along with Syria and Costa Rica in group B.

The others sped off to one of three other cities where the initial rounds will be played: Jeddah, the Red Sea, or the capital Riyadh, or the mountainous sort city of Taif on the western side of the kingdom.

The final is scheduled for Riyadh March 3.

The Americans, in group A, will be playing against strong contenders Brazil and East Germany and also meet Mali in matches starting in Jeddah Friday.

The tournament in which participants are involved, playing in four groups on a knockout basis, starting Thursday... Nigeria, Portugal, Czechoslovakia and Saudi Arabia play in group A. Riyadh and Argentina, Norway, Iraq and Spain, group D in Taif.

Hugo Salcedo, the International Soccer Federation official from the United States, said the American team was getting better, the time, but that it had started playing world class football only last year.

"The U.S. team will present a Saudi football federation with special clock from the U.S. Soccer Federation."

The coach for the American team is Bob Gansler, on his assignment before going on to new job as national coach for the U.S. team preparing for the 1990 World Cup in Italy. He said "the practice facility is fine and spirit are good."

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## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF ©1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### UNHAND THAT LADY!

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ 7 4  
♥ 9 3  
♦ 6 5  
♣ A K J 8 5 4 2

EAST  
♠ A Q 8 6 5  
♥ J 6 4  
♦ K 8 7  
♣ Q 10 9 4 3

SOUTH  
♠ 10 9 3 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ A J 2  
♣ 7 6

The bidding:  
North East South West  
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

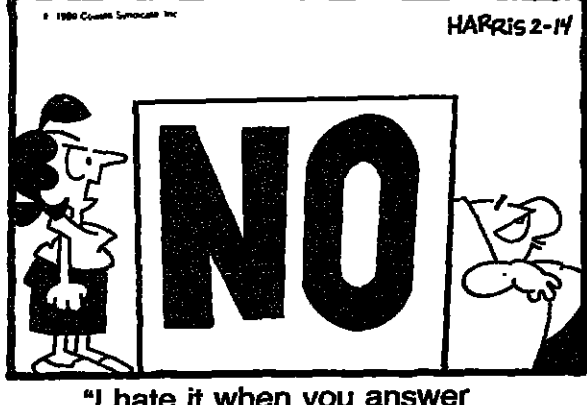
We first came across this theme some 35 years ago in a par contest. We were impressed by it then, and still think it would fool most experts.

The bidding was unremarkable. South could not afford to probe for a spade fit with three spades because, should partner be forced to reply four clubs, the most likely game of three no trump would have gone by the boards.

An almost equally intriguing position arises if West follows with any other card to the first club lead. Again, declarer should play low from dummy—he cannot even afford the finesse. If East follows to the club, the suit can be run since the break is no worse than 3-1 and the ace-king will draw the outstanding clubs. And if East shows out, when declarer gets back to hand he can take the marked finesse for West's queen (now you see why it's wrong to finesse the jack on the first lead of the suit) and still take six tricks in the suit.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I hate it when you answer before I ask!"

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INFIS  
LASIA  
TANNIF  
YERSIM

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOGUL JULEP BRIDGE COMMON  
Answer: If a pedestrian is prone to be careless he might end up this way—PHONE

## FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1989

### YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It may be difficult to understand others and set harmoniously with them. There is a tendency to be arrogant and to make moves that interfere in other people's affairs.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Humility will help you to get along with others. Concern yourself with your own affairs. Put your own personal matters in order.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Enjoy solitude when you are not feeling sociable. Avoid signing on the dotted line today. Business may be slow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be thankful for a favor received. Be natural, outgoing, but tactful, to please others. Superiors give consideration to your ideas.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your charm will produce rewards that are now forming at the workplace. Caution: Praise can produce lazy behavior. Stay fired-up.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Focus on home life and the solid companionship it affords. Stress can be controlled with frequent rest breaks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Romance will have you running out of breath unless you proceed at a slower pace. Be a good friend to someone in need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Keep hands off the one you want to romance. If that person belongs to someone else. Avoid coffee break gossip.

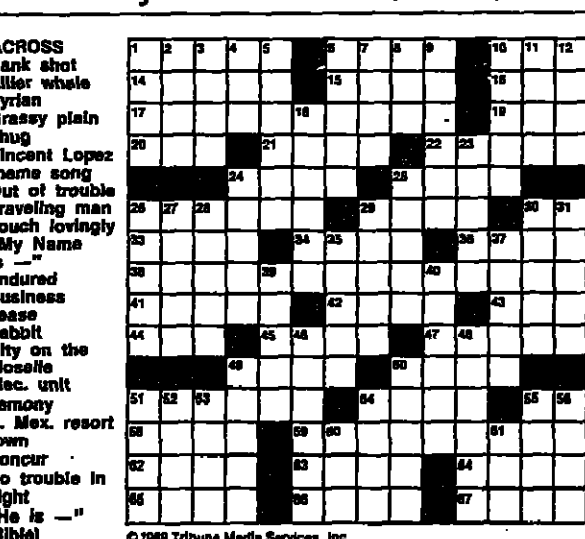
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Life feels easier and free. The financial situation is complex and changing, but manageable. Plan a cultural event with a sweetheart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your personality may be changing daily and has you puzzled. Keep powerful drives for independence within boundaries.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may be entertaining thoughts of moving or changing environment. A drastic change needs forethought and a workable plan.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are glowing with energy. Friendships are changing as some old friends are moving out of your circle and new friends are entering.

## THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



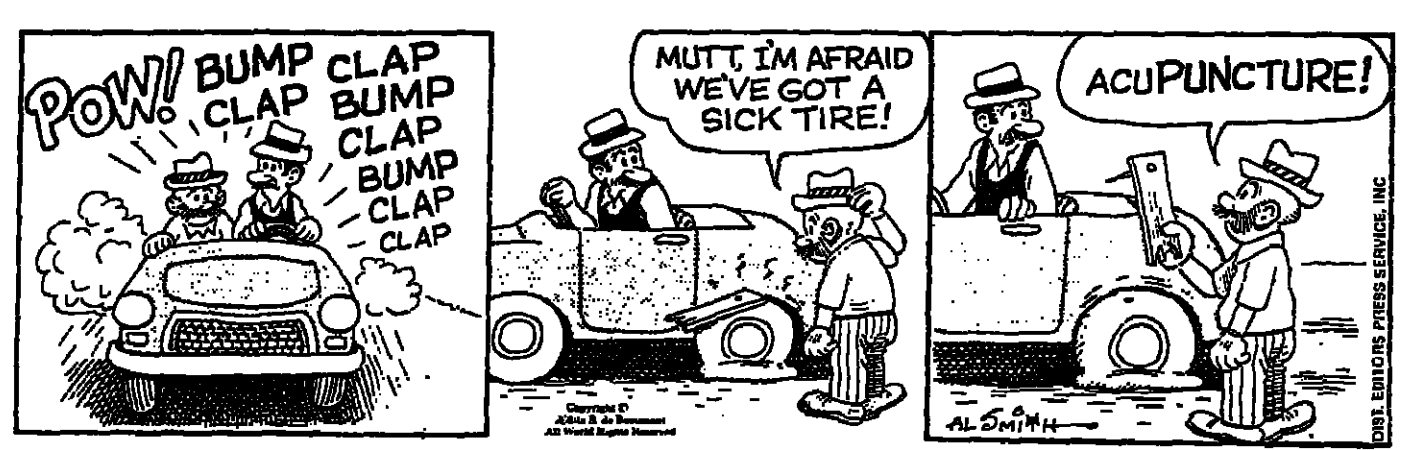
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Blank sheet  
2 Killer whale  
3 Syrian  
4 Grassy plain  
5 Thug  
6 Vincent Lopez theme song  
7 Out of trouble  
8 Traveling man  
9 Touch lovingly  
10 "My Name Is"  
11 Endured  
12 Business  
13 Lease  
14 Rabbit  
15 City on the Moselle  
16 Elec. unit  
17 Germany  
18 N. Mex. resort town  
19 Concur  
20 No trouble in sight  
21 "He is —" (Bible)  
22 Dispatched  
23 Before priv.  
24 Giant Mal  
25 The one mentioned  
26 Compositions  
27 The Doctor's Masterpiece  
28 War god  
29 Step on it  
30 Neighborhood  
31 Old post  
32 Sandarc tree  
33 Get off  
34 Holy man  
35 Author Wiesel  
36 Wipe out  
37 Mirror  
38 Paruse  
39 Dunderheads  
40 Sound system  
41 Closet item  
42 Usher in  
43 Wander  
44 Bowed  
45 In good shape  
46 Macaws  
47 Coarse meal  
48 China's place  
49 Spoken  
50 Staff  
51 notation  
52 Busy ones  
53 "Grand Opry"  
54 To and —

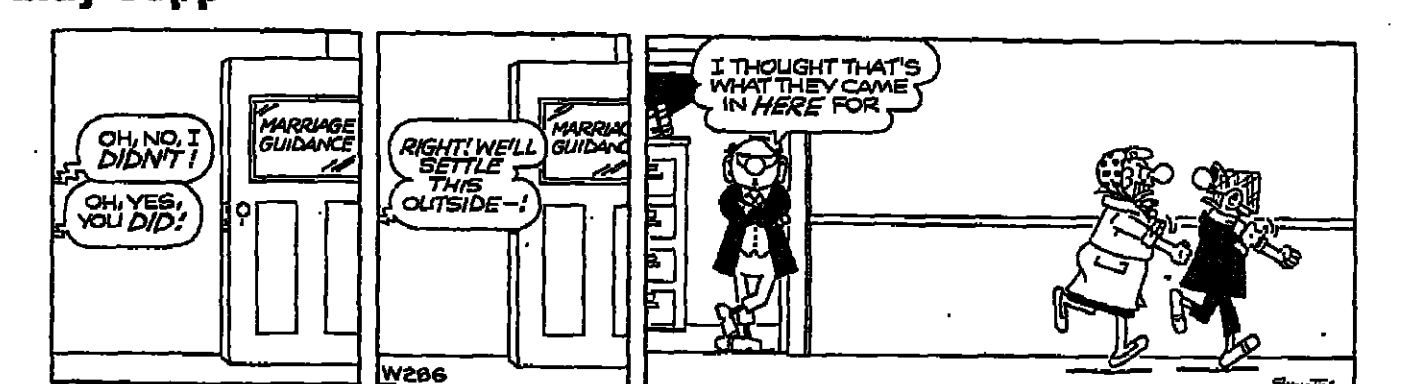
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





## Winnie Mandela scandal deepens

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Three black men have signed statements saying Winnie Mandela was "involved in the events" in the night they were abducted and beaten by some of her unofficial bodyguards, according to a prominent anti-apartheid attorney.

Geoff Budlender of the legal resources centre said Monday his three clients, who are considering possible legal action, gave him their statements about what happened, but have not authorised him to release details.

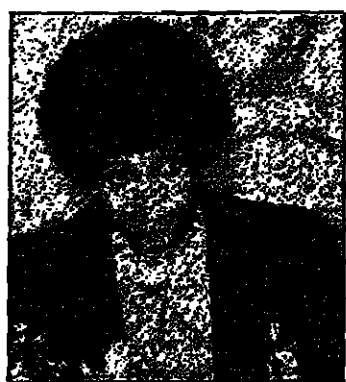
The men, aged 20 to 29, were released from Mandela's home after intervention by community leaders. But a fourth abductee, 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsi, is missing and feared dead.

Budlender said his clients "say they were abducted — three of them and Stompie — and they were all assaulted on the first night. They say she (Mrs. Mandela) was involved in the events on

the first night. They say Stompie was removed from them a day or two afterward and they never saw him again."

Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, has denied that she was at her temporary home when the bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Team, brought the four there late last month. But she has also defended the bodyguards, saying they took the four from a Methodist church residence to protect them from sexual abuse, a charge the church said it has investigated and found false.

The Weekly Mail, an anti-apartheid newspaper, broke the story two weeks ago, detailing the accusations that the released men made at a community meeting. Community leaders appealed for the return of Stompie, who was reported to have been more severely beaten than the others. Mandela said she did not know



Winnie Mandela

what had happened to the 14-year-old, and made a public appeal for him to come forward. The boy's mother says she believes he is dead.

The Weekly Mail reported last Friday that "comrades" in Soweto had found Stompie's body in the township, but it has not been produced, and police say they have no information about it.

Police Major-General J.D. Joubert, who has been assigned to investigate all aspects of the case, appealed Monday to the "comrades" to come forward and provide evidence they had found the body or to publicly deny the report.

## Whirlwind NATO tour takes Baker to Greece Turkey, U.S. to enhance ties

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday that Ankara and Washington had the will to further enhance ties in all fields.

"We are gratified to see that both sides have the will to further enhance relations in all fields and not to mortgage them to the interest of any third party," Yilmaz told reporters.

Diplomats saw his comment on a "third party" as an indirect reference to Greece, a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally with which Turkey has been at odds over Cyprus and Aegean Sea rights for years.

Yilmaz said his talks with Baker, who also met Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during a two-and-a-half hour visit, briefly covered bilateral and NATO issues.

"We have had very interesting discussions today... I look forward to establishing close working relationship with the minister," Baker said in a brief statement. He later left for Greece during a whirlwind tour of 15 NATO countries.

Baker, who arrived in Ankara from West Germany, was also due to visit Italy Tuesday.

U.S. diplomats said Baker's talks were friendly and correct but gave no details of the main substance of talks.

"They will talk about everything," a Turkish Foreign Ministry source said before the meetings. "But time is very limited and it will mainly be a get-acquainted exercise."

Turkey, with the largest armed forces in NATO after the United States, objected to the Reagan administration limiting military aid to Ankara in a 10-to-seven ratio compared with Greece, citing its crucial position in the alliance.

Diplomats said before Baker's visit the aid issue, a NATO stance for East-West negotiations in Vienna next month and modernisation of Turkish forces on the alliance's southeastern flank would be probable topics.

Turkey, which guards one-third of NATO's border with Warsaw Pact countries, differs with its allies on a joint stance for the conventional stability talks in Vienna.

Ankara objects to NATO being split into a main central zone for the talks, with Norway in a northern zone and Turkey and Greece in a southern zone.

Turkey, which also borders Iran, Iraq, Syria and Bulgaria, wants either one indivisible zone or a split along lines of NATO's military command structure, diplomats said.

"There is still time to sort this out," one diplomat said shortly before Baker arrived in Ankara.

Turkey has also been upset by moves in the U.S. Congress to recognise Armenian claims of genocide in then Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

Turkey denies the claims, which have caused friction between Ankara and some of its allies in the past.

The modernisation of NATO's Lance missiles, said the West must now wrest the arms control initiative from Moscow.

"(Modernisation) is not the key to Western security," he said in a radio interview. He said achieving a balance in Warsaw Pact and NATO conventional forces was the vital issue.

Speaking about the modernisation row, Genscher said: "It is important from a political point of view that the attitude to a specific question is not made into a test of the reliability of one or more countries in the alliance."

By echoing recent statements made by Kohl, Genscher showed new unity on defence policy in Bonn's centre-right coalition, forged under pressure from the United States and Britain.

London and Washington are urging West Germany to make a commitment this year to update the Lance short-range nuclear missiles, mostly based in West Germany.

In talks here Sunday and Monday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Genscher and Kohl said they stood by a NATO decision taken at an alliance summit in March last year to modernise the Lance missiles "where necessary."

### Genscher's warning

West-German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher warned NATO allies Tuesday against making the dispute over modernisation of short-range nuclear missiles a test of Bonn's commitment to the Western alliance.

Genscher, speaking after U.S.-West German talks failed to settle differences over Chancellor Helmut Kohl's demand to delay

## Violence claims 24 on eve of Sri Lankan poll

COLOMBO (R) — Twenty-four people were killed on the eve of Sri Lanka's first general election for 12 years and political parties appealed jointly for peaceful voting.

Police said 19 supporters of various political parties were gunned down during the past 24 hours in southern areas by suspected members of the left-wing People's Liberation Front.

Indian sources said five Tamil separatist guerrillas opposed to Wednesday's election were killed in clashes with Indian troops in the northern district of Jaffna.

Police said 25 buses were set on fire in the south in separate incidents Monday and Tuesday in protest against the election. The passengers had been forced off the buses and there were no

casualties.

They said 13 candidates and about 350 political activists have been killed in the past four weeks in the bloodiest run-up to an election on the Indian Ocean island.

"Curfew on Monday and Tuesday. Don't vote in the fake election. Death to those who vote," said a poster pasted in Pettah, the bazaar area of Colombo.

It was signed by the People's Patriotic Movement, believed to be the military wing of the front. Shops in Pettah closed early Tuesday. Police later forced some of them to reopen.

Residents said similar posters appeared in the south, the stronghold of the front, and in northern areas where Liberation Tigers

of Tamil Eelam guerrillas are fighting for an independent homeland.

The front, blamed by the authorities for most of the violence, has described the election as a fake and threatened to kill candidates, votes and election officials.

The Tigers have called the ballot "the mock general elections" and accused former Tamil militants contesting the elections of being traitors.

The nine political parties and an independent group contesting the election issued a joint appeal Tuesday to voters to "refrain from any acts of violence before, during and after the election."

They also urged the people to cast their votes disregarding any threats and acts of intimidation.

## Carbide ordered to pay \$470m

NEW DELHI (R) — India's supreme court ordered the Union Carbide Corporation of the United States to pay \$470 million in full and final compensation for the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Chief Justice R.S. Pathak said Tuesday the compensation was a "just, fair, equitable and reasonable sum" for victims of the 1984 tragedy which killed more than 3,300 people in the central Indian city.

The figure was immediately accepted by lawyers for the Indian government and received a nod of assent from Union Carbide executives in the court.

Pathak ordered all civil cases over the disaster and criminal proceedings against former Union Carbide chief executive Warren Anderson and other company officials be quashed.

More than 3,300 people were killed, or have since died from their injuries, after toxic gas leaked from a Union Carbide pesticide plant at Bhopal Dec. 3, 1984.

Gopal Subramaniam, a chief attorney for India in its suit, said the payment would constitute "full and final settlement of all claims."

A company spokesman, Earl S. Lack, told the AP by telephone from his New York home that Union Carbide had accepted the judgment.

India had sought \$3 billion in damages in a civil suit that had bogged down in legal manoeuvring in a series of Indian courts.

Both Subramaniam, who spoke to a reporter outside the supreme court chambers, and Lack said Union Carbide is to pay all \$470 million by March 31.

Lack said the court's order "was based on its review of all pleadings in India and the U.S., applicable law and facts, and the enormity of human suffering that requires substantial and immediate aid."

The United News of India news agency said the order was handed down by a panel of judges headed by Pathak.

It quoted Pathak as saying the case had gone on long enough and it was time to reach a settlement. It said Pathak had proposed \$470 million as compensation and both sides agreed.

According to India, at least 3,329 died after inhaling methyl isocyanate gas that leaked out of the pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary and drifted over the sleeping city of Bhopal.

## North's lawyer implicates Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan "participated personally and directly" in giving favoured treatment to countries that supported the contra rebels in Nicaragua, lawyers for Oliver North say in court papers released Monday.

The filing of the papers was aimed at having charges against North dropped.

North attorney Brendan Sullivan, opposing a compromise between the independent counsel and the Justice Department, said in the court papers that that proposed deal on keeping certain secrets out of the trial would prevent him from introducing this evidence which he said was central to North's defence.

He also criticised Attorney General Dick Thornburgh for declining "to take the political heat" and make a separate secret-protecting move that could protect national secrets and lead to charges being thrown out.

Sullivan said that at the heart of the case there were third-country arrangements with which the Reagan administration obtained military support for the contras. He said the policy was "that those third-country arrangements would not be disclosed outside a limited group of executive branch officials."

At the time, Congress had restricted and at times prohibited

the spending of U.S. funds in support of the guerrilla war against the leftist government in Nicaragua.

Former National Security Adviser John Poindexter testified at the congressional Iran-contra hearings in 1987 that Reagan favoured making up for that lack of official U.S. support with money from other nations. But the assertion that Reagan was personally involved in arranging to return the favours is new.

Sullivan's statements were in a written response to U.S. district Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, objecting to a new plan for protecting national security secrets at North's trial.

The plan, worked out by independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh and the Justice Department, "would gut the defence," Sullivan said. It would hide "critical information about the Reagan administration's third-country arrangement for military support of the resistance and the official nondisclosure of those arrangements."

Sullivan said that the way the government proposed to present this information to the jury — through a general "admission" with no details allowed — would leave out "that President Reagan and top executive branch officials participated personally and directly in those arrangements."

## Khomeini wants Rushdie executed

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Tuesday sanctioned the killing of Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his book "The Satanic Verses."

"I inform the proud Muslim people of the world that the author of the 'Satanic Verses' book which is against Islam, the Prophet and the Koran, and all those involved in its publication who were aware of its content, are sentenced to death," Khomeini said in a message broadcast by Tehran Radio.

"I ask all the Muslims to execute them wherever they find them," Khomeini was quoted as saying.

He said if the attackers were killed carrying out his order to execute Rushdie and his collaborators, they would be considered martyrs.

Six people protesting against the book have been killed in India and Pakistan since Sunday as Muslim anger mounted over what has been seen as insulting references to the Prophet Mohammed.

Khomeini said: "If someone knows them (Rushdie and his collaborators) but is unable to kill them, he should hand them over to the people for punishment."

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi announced a day of mourning in Iran Wednesday in protest against the book, Tehran Radio said.

Author Salman Rushdie, scheduled to tour the United States next week to publicise his book, said Tuesday the blood of Muslims killed in demonstrations was on the hands of those who inflamed the protesters.

Five people were killed outside a U.S. cultural centre in Islamabad Sunday when police opened fire on demonstrators demanding the book be banned in the United States.

Another was killed Monday during a similar demonstration in Srinagar, India.

"The blood is on the hands of the people who inflame feelings of people who unfortunately have not and cannot read the book because it is not available," Rushdie told ABC television's "Nightline" programme in the United States.

Protesters have singled out a dream sequence in "Satanic Verses" in which prostitute's take the names of Prophet Mohammed's wives.

Rushdie said that passage contrasted prostitutes with the chaste and pure Prophet and his wives, adding that all the

prostitutes were executed for their immorality in his book.

Rushdie was born into a Muslim family in Bombay.

**Butto reaction**

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday's protest may have been staged by hard-line opposition groups which she said were opposed to her government and democracy.

Bhutto said she did not see how the protest could have been against Rushdie's book because it was banned and unavailable in Pakistan and none of the protesters could have read it.

At an airport news conference Monday, after returning from a state visit to China, the prime minister said: "Was the demonstration against Salman Rushdie's book or a law and order situation?"

## Belgian ex-premier freed

BRUSSELS (R) — Former Belgian Prime Minister Paul van den Boeynants, looking haggard and thin, was freed by kidnappers who held him in the dark for 30 days and reunited with his family.

The 69-year-old millionaire, who was freed Monday night, made a victory sign from his window to journalists waiting outside his Brussels apartment block Tuesday morning.

"His face is drawn, he's very thin, and he has grown a beard," said a Belgian photographer allowed into his flat. Van den Boeynants told the photographer he had been held in the dark for 30 days.

His son Christian said his father was too tired to talk to reporters.

Chief investigator Andre Vandoren said Van den Boeynants took a taxi home after kidnappers freed him at 10.25 p.m. near the railway station in the town of Tournai on the French border.

He contacted police after his 80-kilometres drive back to Brussels.

Van den Boeynants' family had offered to pay for his release after a hitherto unknown group called the Socialist Revolutionary Bri-



gade (BSR) demanded a \$750,000 ransom.

Vandoren declined to say whether money had been paid.

He said he would give more details at a news conference later Tuesday, adding: "The investigation is still continuing."

Asked about suggestions that Van den Boeynants had been held in France, he said: "I'd like to know that myself."

One of Belgium's most colourful post-war politicians, Van den Boeynants was under investigation for alleged bribe-taking as defence minister in the 1970s when he disappeared from his garage Jan. 14.

## Solidarity, Warsaw disagree on reforms

WARSAW (R) — Poland's banned Solidarity Union and the country's communist rulers disagreed over reform of the stagnant economy during talks Monday.

Both sides reported difficulties a week into broad talks on making a deal on Poland's economic and political problems, which is expected to clear the path to legalising Solidarity, suppressed under martial law in December 1981.

"Discussion was very difficult," deputy government spokesman Zbyslaw Rykowski told a news conference.

"If the matters on which consensus is sought do not correspond to what is really happening in the economy, in enterprises and on the market, that consensus will remain on paper," he said.

Solidarity said it rejected the government's overall economic reform plan as a basis for agreement, while Industry Minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek dismissed calls for a 20 per cent cut in military expenditure as ridiculous.

Both sides said they disagreed over workers' benefits, how to control soaring inflation and government plans to end meat rationing in one swoop which Solidarity said would double prices.

Solidarity accused the government of pushing ahead with reforms which did not have the agreement of the people or the participants at the talks.

"I feel that we encountered big differences but there is some basis for satisfaction," Solidarity adviser Tadeusz Mazowiecki told a news conference.

He said there was progress on working out an index tying wages to inflation and legalising rural solidarity for farmers.

The government invited Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to the talks last August together with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the official unions and independent figures to work out a deal that would win public support for reforms.

The government also wants Solidarity to help end labour unrest.

Five strikes broke out last week but the official PAP news agency said that only one strike by regional transport workers in the central town of Piotrkow Trybunalski continued Monday.

## COLUMN

### Police play with videos

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian state police will soon be taking target practice at moving video images. Officials said Thursday the police corps will buy computerised video equipment that will allow officers to practice shooting live ammunition at moving pictures projected on a large screen of paper or light cloth. Once hit, the images will freeze to show the accuracy of the aim.

"We are very progressive in this," said a police official who added that the first of eight video machines to be used by the state police should be installed by March. He said he did not know the cost of the equipment, which was developed by the Browning company, part of the Belgian arms producer Fabrique Nationale Herstal SA.

### Bring Elvis, win a million

LONDON (R) — A British tabloid newspaper Tuesday offered £1 million (\$1.75 million) to anyone who brought rock singer Elvis Presley into its offices alive.

"The Sun said it would check to see if the contender really was the king of the rock — who was certified dead in 1977 — by checking his dental records and fingerprints. To claim the reward the man would also have to sing three of Elvis' greatest hits — Blue Suede Shoes, All Shook Up and Hound Dog. Elvis, who would now be 53, has refused to die, at least in the imagination of fans who have reported sightings across the United States at frequent intervals since his death."

### Dog interfering in Bush's life

WASHINGTON (R) — After nearly a month in the White House, first lady Barbara Bush joked Monday that the president is complaining their dog is coming between them. Mrs. Bush said their pet dog Millie crawls into their White House bed and sleeps between George and her. She acknowledged in an interview with Reuters and several reporters that Bush complains the dog literally comes between them, as it did in the vice presidential mansion.

"Right up there (on the bed)," she said about the pregnant English spaniel who never leaves Mrs. Bush's side. "Right in the middle." In a free-wheeling interview, the outspoken, 63-year-old lady, who wears fake pearls, is not colouring in her gray hair and is not embarrassed by her wrinkles, said she planned to leave running the government to her husband.

"I don't fool around with the government," she said. "I'm leaving that to George."

### Man saved from suicide kills three

MANILA (R) — A man angry at being saved from a suicide attempt barked to death three neighbours in the central Philippines before residents stabbed him to death, the Philippine news agency said Tuesday. It said Gerardo Gregorio, Junior who had tried to kill himself by drinking insecticide, stalked out of a hospital in Aklan province last weekend after pulling out a dextrose tube inserted in his arm. When he got home, he killed three neighbours with a machete, and wounded three others. Angry residents stopped his murderous rampage by backing him to death.

### New Orleans jazz

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans jazz and heritage festival will celebrate its 20th anniversary this spring with a new riverfront concert site and a lineup including Santana, Miles Davis, Al Green and Wynton Marsalis. Evening concerts traditionally have been held on the riverboat president, but the president's home base was moved to St. Louis last summer. The new river tent will be built on the banks of the Mississippi River and will seat about 3,000 people, festival producer Quint Davis said Sunday.

### Soviet ballet to make London debut

LONDON (AP) — Two Soviet theatre companies will make their British debuts late in February under the auspices of Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Limited, a production company named for the award-winning actress. The Vakhtangov Theatre Company will perform Mikhail Shchepkin's "The Peace of Brez-Litovsk" Feb. 15-18 and Shalom's reformed Moscow Jewish Company will perform "The Train to Khyte" Feb. 21-March 4.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tutu may join hunger strike

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu may join civil rights leader Allan Boesak and 300 South African prisoners in a hunger strike against detention without trial. A statement from Tutu's Cape Town office said the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner and Nobel Peace Prize winner would meet church colleagues Tuesday to decide whether to join the strike. "We have... had enquiries (from journalists) as to whether the archbishop will join Dr. Allan Boesak in his act of solidarity with the hunger strikers. The archbishop, his brother bishops in the Diocese of Cape Town and other diocesan representatives will meet tomorrow to decide on action," the statement said. Announcing his decision to join the strike Monday, Boesak, the president of the World Council of Reformed Churches, said in an open letter to Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok: "None of us wants to die. But if this is the road we must take to make you and your government understand the evil of your ways, we will take it."

### China faces ecological disaster

PEKING (R) — China could be heading towards ecological disaster unless pollution is halted, a leading scientist warned Monday. "There could be a deadly threat to the survival of the Chinese nation if immediate action is not taken to halt environmental pollution," Chinese academy of sciences president Zhou Guangzhao told a national scientific meeting. Zhou, quoted by the official New China News Agency, said forests were rapidly shrinking, 150 million people were drinking polluted water and acid rain was attacking the southwestern provinces, home to the endangered panda. "The ever-increasing population is facing a deteriorating living environment — a sure recipe for disaster."

### Jakarta flooded, 17,000 evacuated

JAKARTA (AP) — About 17,000 people have left their homes in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta during two days of flooding from the Ciliwung river, a city official said Tuesday. There have been reports of casualties, he said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said flooding river waters inundated Jakarta's eastern districts, mostly the slum areas of Kampung Melayu, Manggarai and Bukit Duri. Incessant rain over the river's upper reaches in Bogor, about 60 kilometres south of Jakarta, caused the downstream flooding.

### Lithuania law causes backlash

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of Russian and Polish speakers have demonstrated in Soviet Lithuania against a decree making Lithuanian the language of business and government in the republic, local journalists said Monday. A reporter at the official Lithuanian news agency Elta told Reuters that up to 50,000 people took part in a protest in the capital Vilnius Sunday, organised by a mass movement of mainly non-Lithuanians called Yedinstvo (unity). Other Lithuanian sources said the movement's leadership claimed attendance was as high as 100,000.

### Journalists need protected status

BRUSSELS (R) — Journalists on perilous assignments should have protected status similar to Red Cross workers to safeguard them from kidnapping, a member of the European Parliament said Monday. "Journalists are more and more often used as tools for political violence and they're totally unprotected," said parliament member Karel de Gucht at a conference in Brussels on press and relief workers in danger zones.